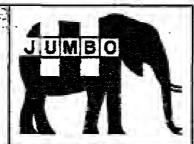
A CHRISTMAS MAGAZINE

Anthony Burgess looks at the state of Christianity this Christmas Eve In the Review section: Jumbo Crossword



ON BOXING DAY

SPECIAL EDITION

The Times will be the only quality newspaper to publish on Boxing Day For more details turn to page 20

LAST WEEK'S AVERAGE DAILY SALE

No 63,273





SATURDAY DECEMBER 24 1988

Doubts grow over 747 bomb

Channon holiday provokes anger

● They are studying similarities between it and the destruction of an Air India Boeing 747 off Ireland in 1985

● He was later criticized for going ahead with a holiday in the West Indies so soon after the Lockerbie disaster

lack of judgement "would justify his replacement".

the Prime Minister had been

made aware of Mr Channon's

decision to leave and had

The Department of Trans-port explained that Mr Mich-ael Portillo, Minister of State,

was the duty minister over

Christmas, but that Mr Channon would be kept very closely in touch with what was

going on. It said that the matter was weighed carefully, but that Mr Portillo had been

involved from the start.

It was explained that the

holiday was Mr Channon's

But it was confirmed that

By Harvey Elliott, Philip Webster and Michael Evans

More than 48 hours after the Lockerbie air that Heathrow had not been informed of the threat because disaster, investigators on the scene and scientists who have inspected the black box American airlines did not can find no trace of a bomb or sabotage.

First tests on the flight recorders of the Pan Am plane revealed nothing abnormal until a split second before radar contact was lost.

Then there is a "faint unquantified noise" on the cockpit voice recorder which experts are still trying to

Despite the lack of positive evidence, the sabotage theory has not been ruled out, and the row over Britain's response to warnings of a terrorist threat to Pan Am flights continued.

As rescue teams continued to search for more bodies, with the death toll revised to 274, another argument developed because Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport flery to the West Transport, flew to the West Indies for a Christmas holiday yesterday. He was believed to be joining his family on the

island of Mustique. He left behind a growing political controversy over Britain's response to warnings of a terrorist threat to Pan Am

As Mr Channon arrived in Barbados last night, ready to return immediately if required, the Government was under growing pressure to explain why the warning that a bomb would be planted on an aircraft flying from Frankfurt was not passed by the Depart- still being retrieved and when ment of Transport to Heath- a big security review was row airport, or why the public was not told.

The department explained aviation security staff con-

At the same time, it was confirmed that Mr Channon knew of the warning - although he did not refer to it when he made his statement to the Commons on Thursday

Before leaving the country yesterday, Mr Channon announced a review of security at Britain's airports in the ake of the disaster.

He insisted that he had no reason to believe there was any security lapse at Heathrow before the doomed aircraft took off. Mr Channon said: "At this stage, I am deter-

More photographs... Search for bodies.... Victims named...

mined to review all security measures at Heathrow, and learn what lessons, if there are any, are to be learnt in this case. As a precaution, I am going to review all the security

Mr Channon faced Labour calls for his dismissal for going away on holiday less than 48 hours after the crash.

Mr John Prescott, the shadow transport spokesman, said that it was "unbelievable, intolerable and insensitive for Mr Channon to leave for his holidays so soon after Britain's worst aviation disaster, when bodies were under

Mrs Thatcher should call

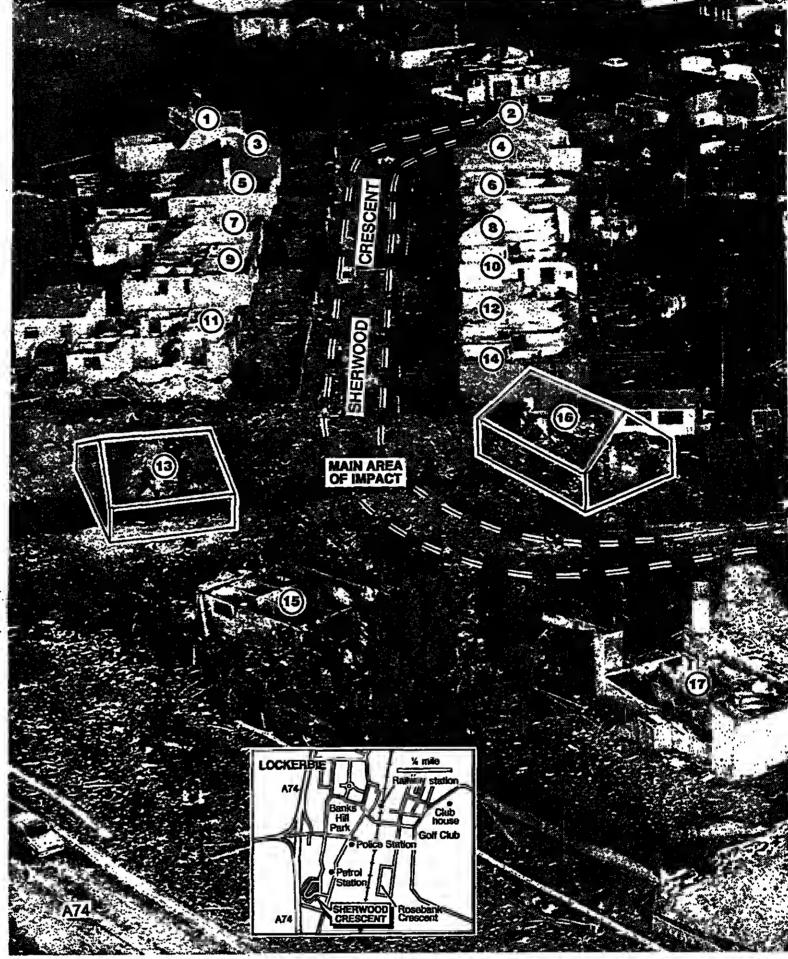
annual break, which he usu-ally takes in the winter. Mr Portillo told Mr Prescott in a letter last night that, because the department re-

ceived many bomb threats and pieces of intelligence of differing quality, it would be wrong on that basis to issue warnings to British travellers. He wrote: "We assess any report in the light of other intelligence and, having done so, satisfy ourselves that the security measures applying to the flights under threat are appropriate. When the depart-

had it assessed, and concluded that the enhanced security measures already in force in respect of US airline flights out of the UK were appropriate."
Conservative MPs sup-

ported Mr Channon, saying that there was little be personally would be able to do over the coming days. The Secretary of State has had a demanding few weeks with the King's Cross underground fire inquiry, followed by the Clapham rail disaster, and then Wednesday's air crash.

There appeared likely to be more long-term embarrassment for the Government over the Department of



Sherwood Crescent: Some houses at the top end of the street appear relatively unscathed, but near the A74, little or nothing remains.

Air India disaster

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Crash investigators last night called for detailed reports and the tapes taken from the cockpit voice re-corder of the Air India Boeing 747 which crashed into the sea off Ireland in 1985 because of similarities between the two accidents.

The Air India jet, in which 329 people died, also disappeared from radar screens at 31,000 feet. Its pilot did not make a Mayday radio call. A warning had been received before the flight that an Air India jet could be subject to attack. And an official Indian inquiry concluded that it had been destroyed by a bomb, even though no evidence was ever produced to prove the theory.

Soon after the accident the US Federal Aviation Administration

ordered checks on all older jumbo jets, many of which were found to have serious cracks in the spars near the nose cone. Last night Mr Ray Davis, the official British crash investigator who gave evidence to the Indian inquiry said: "The Indian enquiry assumed it was a bomb from the very beginning even though we could not find any trace of such an explosion. We did not have very much wreckage to go on, but there was not a trace of the signs of an explosion on any of the bodies or debris which was recovered.

"We could not say for certain that it was not a bomb but nor could we prove it. I shall not believe that this was a bomb either until firm evidence is produced to prove it."

Similarities seen with | Houses, families, even the road has gone in the crescent that vanished

The quiet crescent where at least 17

people were struck down as they were taking their tea and preparing for Christmas was opened briefly yesterday to reveal yet another horrific result of the Pan Am crash.

Two homes had completely disappeared under the impact of the falling rear section of the Bocing 747, two more had become empty shells and another eight were so badly damaged they will never be home to anyone again.

It was impossible to identify No 13 Sherwood Crescent, where Mr Maurice Henry, aged 62, lived with his wife Dora, aged 55. Both are thought to have died in the disaster but no remains have been recovered. The Somerville family, Jack By Tony Dawe and Emma Wilkins and Rosalind and their children

Paul and Lindsay, who lived next door at No 15, are also believed to have perished and the fate of Janet and John Smith, their neighbours at No 17, was unknown last night.

Across the road at No 16 there was one survivor, Stephen Flannigan who had left his home to mend his sister's bike in a neighbour's garage. The sister, Joanne, parents Tom and Kate died.

Further north up the crescent, the houses were roofless and in varying stages of ruination. The exception was the Presbytery, No 1, the home of the Rev John Kerr, which escaped damage. On the western side of the street, No 3, the home of Archibald and Mabel McBride, and No 5, the home of Robert and Agnes Miller, were slightly damaged. No 7, which bears the name Linnfield and was the home of Dr Neil MacLean and his wife Agnes, has lost its roof as has No 9, the home of the Edwards family who were out at the time of the crash. Mary Lancaster, who lived at No II, is known to have

Janet Neilson lived at Domun, No 8, James and Agnes Robertson lived at No 10, Adam and Agnes Oliver lived at No 12but what became of them all was still unclear last night. Mrs Jean Murray, who lived at No 14 and was reported missing, turned up yesterday after being away from home on the fateful

YOU CAN BE SURE OF SHELL

Dreaming of warm Christmas

By Robin Young

As the nation broke up for the Christmas holidays it was estimated that 500,000 people were leaving the country to celebrate abroad. According to the London Weather Centre, they are likely to be miss the warmest Christmas Day since

The weathermen say it is quite possible that temperatures in the South this year will beat the 13.40 C (560 F) recorded at Heathrow in 1949 and throughout the rest Jersey and Dublin have been of Britain it will be "very mild laid on for Christmas week, with a south-westerly air- but the most popular destina-

Nonetheless, the Associ-

inclusive holidays had been booked this year, and estimated that another 200,000 would be flying out to visit friends or relatives, or to

Leading article. Photographs. accommodation they had ar-

ranged for themselves. A total of 32 extra flights to North America, the Carib-bean, the Middle East, India, tions for Christmas in the sun are still the Canary Islands, ation of British Travel Agents Majorca and the Costa del Sol

said yesterday that 300,000 and Costa Blanca in Spain. For skiers the Austrian Tyrol is still the most popular venue, followed by the French and Italian Alps, and finally Switzerland.

British Airways said yes-terday that it would be laying on extra TriStars and jumbos for the Belfast shuttle this morning. Last year 10 planes went out for the 8.15 shuttle on Christmas Eve and this morning it is expected to be even more. The airline is also anticipating a 5 per cent increase on last year's longhanl flights.

At Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester airports the ter-Continued on page 20, cel 3 January ...

INSIDE

Fugitives linked to blast

Detectives hunting two IRA men who fled a bomb-making factory in a flat in Clapham, south London, after a street shooting on Monday, are understood to have linked them to the Inglis Barracks bombing in which a serviceman died last summer. Material found at the flat may have provided the link. A man and a woman, held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act yesterday, were last night still being questioned at Paddington Green police station ..

Deficit down

Britain's current account defi- Who said: "I'd kick my own

Sporting talk

cit dropped to £1.61 billion brother if necessary. That's last month and the pound what being a professional is all moved back above \$1.80. about." Or: "He bowls too Building societies reported a many wicket-taking balls." dismal month's business for Or. "Every man prefers my November mith and the pound what being a professional is all November with net receipts shape to that of a rubber ball."

Peter Ball recalls who said mitments at their lowest since what in the world of sport

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Bodies may yield clues to cause

By Thomson Prentice and Peter Davenport

The dead passengers of PA 103 may yield clues to the cause of the disaster and confirm whether or not a bomb was aboard.

Crash iovestigators at Lockerbie are considering the possibility that a passenger may have taken a bomb on to the aircraft, either deliberately io a fanatical suicide mission, or as the unwitting pawn in a terrorist act.

Yesterday, hundreds of police soldiers and RAF personnel, helped by tracker dogs, gathered some of the thousands of pieces of wreckage scattered across many miles of surrounding countryside as well as in the town

More than 50 British and American aviation investigators methodically examined the cockpit section of the aircraft. Each fragment of twisted metal, electrical wiring and passenger cabin furnishings will be scrutinized. Every body recovered from

examined where it lay before being moved to the temporary mortuary in the town hall. The nature of the injuries may cast light on whether explosives were involved while forensic tests can estab-

lish any trace of explosives on

the hills, woods and farmland around Lockerbie has been

the skin of victims. For these reasons the movement of bodies into Lockerbie has been slower than would otherwise have been expected. Police are highly sensitive to the feelings of bereaved relatives but it has been made clear that every victim represents a potentially crucial source of evidence.

Mr Mick Charles, of the Air Accident Iovestigatioo Branch of the Department of Transport, is in charge of the Lockerbie operation.

He chose his words carefully at a press briefing yes-terday. "We have to try to find whether there were any unusual components of the accident and to find out at which point of the flight things began to go wrong", he said.

"It would be wrong to prejudge the situation. We are looking for evidence to point



The nose section of the jet provides a grim background as policemen carry another body away. The bodies are examined where they lay in the search for clues to the cause of the disaster.

this stage we have oo evidence whatsoever of sabotage."

The aircraft's two flight recorders have been retrieved. The data are oow being analysed by experts on the Farnborough headquarters of the investigation branch.

"They are being replayed and read out but a lot more work has still to be done oo them", Mr Charles said.

Specialists from Farnborough and from the US National Transportation Safety Board were clustered for hours around the remains of the nose section of the aircraft yesterday. They were joiced by senior officials of Pan Am and Boeing American investigators on the site now outnumber their British counterparts by about four to

search for remains of residents killed by blazing debris from the crash was cootinuing slowly. But since the homes in which they lived have been almost completely obliterated traces of the occupants may prove extremely difficult to

Ten adults and four children from houses in the Sherwood Crescent area are believed to have been killed.

A microscopic examination of the houses and cars destroyed by the jet may be the only way of discovering whether they were occupied at the time of the impact, a leading forensic scientist said.

Police and rescuers oo the scene have been mystified by the absence of remains in the burnt-out shells of cars struck by burning debris and fuel from the plane. They have been unable to tell if the

vehicles were occupied, let alone identify the victims. However, Mr Henry Bland, a consulting forensic scientist with Roystoo-based UK

Forensic Science Services, said yesterday that it would be extremely unlikely that no remains exist either in the cars or houses, or near by. Lockerbie Academy, the school a few hundred yards from the town centre along

the command centre for the vast operation dealing with the aftermath of the disaster. The corridors and classrooms have been taken over by hundreds of police, soldiers, mountain rescue per-

Glasgow Road, has become

sonnel, social workers, doctors and airline officials. Alongside the Christmas decorations on the walls now hang large-scale maps detail-ing the areas to be searched for missing bodies and wreckage from the jet and the shattered search teams which have alhouses of Lockerbie, lists of ready found more than 150 instructions for the 600 bodies in the hills and woods in a 15-mile radius of the personnel involved in the

Wires for newly installed communications and computer equipment trail alongside streamers and trimmings. Inappropriate as they are, there was simply no time to take them down and now they are a constant reminder of the poignancy of the timing of the

search and briefing papers.

Each find, oo matter how small, is carefully logged for use in the investigation to determine the cause of the disaster.

The main hall has become the central command post for the emergency services and is restricted to authorized per-

Lines of desks are staffed by police officers amassing details to help in the identification of victims and of evidence for the Procurator Fiscal for the area, Mr James McDougal, who is responsible

for the inquiry. Every room is littered with the essential paraphernalia of such operations; in one are piles of blankets, in another communication equipment, yet another holds supplies of overails, heavy boots and powerful torches.

Social services have taken over the former computer

flow of phoney threats By Michael Evans Defence Correspondent The huge number of thrests

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Massing

and warnings of imminent attacks received by governments each day in the West has caused enormous problems for those engaged in counter-terrorism.

Some of the warnings are specific, detailing a time and place. Others are very general. Most come to nothing. But each warning has to be given serious consideration. Since the beginning of

September, the US State Department's counter-terrorism section has dealt with 87 telephone threats leading to 100 alerts being sent out to embassies and missions abroad. Io the same period the Federal Aviation Administration has issued airlines will eight alerts.

A counter-terrorism officia io Washington said: "It's up individual US missions decide whether to post up the warning on the board. recommendation would be made by the embassy security officer.

He described the warning informant to the US embassy in Helsinki about a bomb attack oo a Pan Am Jumbo flying out of Frankfurt as a more specific warning, However, he said the extra detail about a Finnish woman

A soldier wheels large filing

cabinets into place in a cor-

ridor so that the rapidly rising

amount of paperwork can be

stored. Every disaster creates

its own bureauacracy which

Upstairs are officials of Pan Am, the FBl. US Embassy, the

there is a quiet, unhurried air

One picture in the school

canteen shows bottles and

baggage tumbling from the tail

of a plane in mid-air with the

The artist could not have

caption: Party in the Air.

has to be supplied.

tioo Safety Board.

of efficiency.

The Lockerbie air disaster has prompted a series of bom hoax calls against aircra flying from British airports. Yesterday an Air India

Federal Aviation Authority and the National Transporta-Boeing 747 jumbo jet or a flight from Heathrow to New American accents mingle York with 250 passengers was with English and Scottish forced to turn back 40 minutes voices. Telephones ring iointo its flight after an anonycessantly and the corridors are mous bomb warning. constantly busy but overall

The 747 was taken to a remote part of the airport where it was thoroughly checked and the passengers taken by coach to Terminal Three to await departure.

A British Air Ferries Viscount carrying 33 Shell North See oil workers and a crew of four landed safely at Sumburgh airport in the Shetlands after a flight from Aberdeen.

A telephone call had been received claiming that a bomb was on board one of three British Air Ferries aircraft use

On Thursday an Alitalia flight from Heathrow to Rome was grounded for two hours after another bomb hoax call.

taking the bomb on board did not necessarily mean that it was any more credible than a more general warning. "Sometimes people provide more details just to sound more credible", he said.

Frankfurt, which is used constantly by US servicemen, was an obvious choice for someone wanting to issue a: phoney warning.

Intelligence agencies are reluctant to open up all the raw material received vis telephone threats because of. the danger of encouraging others to make copycat calls. It could also increase the level of psychniogical terrorism in places like Lebanon, where terrorists constantly phone in

threats to wear people down.

President-elect George Bush told a news cooference that the oumber of threats received by the United States was enormous and that care had to be taken before they were publicized.

"Sometimes by going public you give undue attention to: what the terrorist wants to call attention to", he said. "If you had hard evidence that a specific flight was going to be threatened, or the threat could not be contained, elearly you would want to serve the public

good by notifying people."
The Royal Ulster Constabu-lary in Northern Ireland also has to deal with hundreds of phoned threats and warnings each year. RUC sources said yesterday that they were always taken seriously.

Reagan

President Reagan yesterday sent a message of condolence to the people of Lockerbie. And President Mikhail Gorbachov sent condolences to

the Prime Minister. Mr Reagan said: "Nancy and I wish to extend, nn behalf of the people of the United States, our heartfelt condolence to the people of Lockerbie in this time of loss and SOITOW. Our hearts go out to you

on this tragic occasion, which marred what should have been a season of joy." The message was sent to Mr

Frank Park, of Annandale and Eskdale District Council. In reply, he wrote: "To the President of the United States, oo behalf of the people of Lockerbie, I thank you and the First Lady for your kind wishes at this time of sorrow.

Our small community has suffered much but our sadness is even greater when we think of the loss of so many people from the United States. Our thoughts are with their friends and relatives."

The US Ambassador to London, Mr Charles Price, vesterday sent condolences to the families and friends of the

Tass, the official Soviet news agency, gave no details of Mr Gorbachov's telegram. Meaowhile, in Rome, Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Liberation Organization chairman, yesterday describ-ed the crash as inhuman, crimical action directed against our peace mission

Shattered town yearns for a sense of normality and Ronald Faux The small black figures of a

score of policemen were highlighted on the crest of a hillside overlooking Lockerbie last night, a stark reminder to the 3,000 population that the grim search for bodies is likely to cootinue for several days. In the streets and shops of

the small farming community, locals bravely resumed everyday life, preparing almost refuctantly for Christmas. At the town hall, now a mortuary containing close to 100 bodies, the Christmas tree was taken down as a mark of respect. Tomorrow the most poig-

rather than celebration.

of the town, where two more the plane's fuselage. the locals was tremendous. "It was like wartime. The people will undoubtedly face a

very sad Christmas, but they are taking the strain remarkably well. People were coming out of their homes with cups of coffee, soup and biscuits for the soldiers and police off-

even closer together.

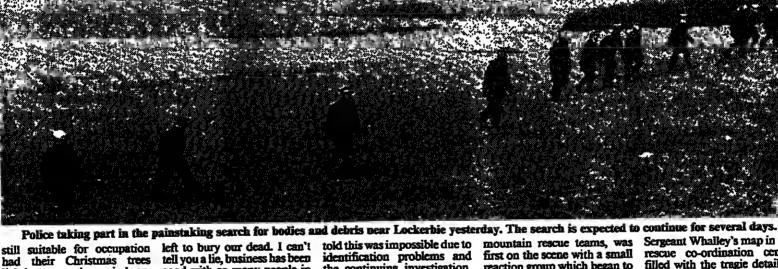
(and) against humanity as a

nant events will be the services in the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholie churches - this year they will be full of sorrow Sir Hector Munro, the local

MP, yesterday visited houses in the Rosebank Crescent area bodies were recovered from Sir Hector said the spirit of

"They have realized that anything can happen in this world and are taking it extremely bravely. A tremendous community spirit has built up here bringing people In the devastated area of

Sherwood Park, the worst hit area of the town, those houses



lighting up the windows. Workmen toiled into the dark replacing missing tiles and windows, troops scoured surrounding streets, removing rubble still scattered around the town. The grim search for bodies cootinued yards away from the ruins of well-tended

Lockerbie yesterday was an example of how a community can so quickly return to a semblance of normality.

But as Mr Eddie, Gibb, owner of the Crown Hotel, said: "It won't be until all the media and the police and troops leave the town that people will really be able to come to terms with what has yesterday before the beginning happened here, and we can be of the Sabbath. After being Airport baggage checks

good with so many people in the town, but this is no way people want to earn a living. Everyone is becoming fed up with questions and want to be

left alone now. "We know the media has to do a job hot now people want Sir Hector said: "It is un-

natural for people here to have to face the media. They are wonderful, but they find it difficult to come to terms with all this continued questioning and cameras about".

Rabbi Heilpern, from Man-chester, pleaded with authorities to allow 13 Orthodox Jews on the flight to be buried

the continuing investigation, Rabbi Heilpern conceded, saying he understood the

Flight Sergeant David Whalley, leader of the RAF Leuchars mountain rescue team, said he had never stered such an horrific accident in 20 years of dealing with jet crashes and mountaineering accidents. "If the

cause proves to be sabotage, that one man can inflict this on other human beings is beyond belief", he said, as more than 1,000 soliders, police and mountain rescue specialists, resumed the meticulous search around the town. Flight Sergeant Whalley, head of co-ordination for the

mountain rescue teams, was Sergeant Whalley's map in the rescue co-ordination centre filled with the tragic detail of first on the scene with a small reaction group which began to the disaster, plotting where bodies and debris had been search for survivors in the darkness. found and the areas that had Volunteer mountain rescue

teams are trained to recognize parts of an aircraft, however distorted by impact, and to deal with the human results after air crashes. "What our lads found was

so appalling it is bound to have affected them. Bodies and Christmas presents, passports, masses of money.
"The crater was the worst. The trouble is that some nf our blokes are nnly 19 or 20. Just young lads really. They will

dously valuable." worked slowly through the streets and lanes, putting ev-ery scrap of metal and refuse very likely need some counselling help after this", he said. from the airliner into plastic Searchers were out helped bags that will be labelled and by nine helicopters as Flight

Bombing investigation

been searched and places still

Woodland was the most

There are woods around

here that are not on the map.

We send in dogs that are

normally used to detect ava-

They have been tremen-

In Lockerbie itself, troops

to be covered.

difficult he said.

lanche victims.

By Our Crime Reporter

where he led the successful

As head of the branch, his investigation bureau. A man officers have successfully ta- who chooses his words careken part in the prosecution of fully, albeit sometimes force-Patrick Magee, the Brighton fully, Mr Churchill-Coleman bomber, and Gilbert Mc-leads a team noted for ful application of forensis

As the police in London geared themselves up for the iovestigation, scientists from the Royal Armaments Re search and Development Establishment based in Kenty were already working in Scot land with crash investigators.

They will hunt through the debris.

debris they may also find the first clues and even evident which might be used in a con-

been commissinned as nnly one of several outside consulsecurity changes after studying tants and that some of its boarding passes are supposed recommendations had been to be checked against luggage. London, Frankfurt, New York's Kennedy and four

As a security measure

Police explosives experts

terminals at the airport with long queues forming for

bomh on an El Al aircraft using his unwitting pregnant

bomb-makers. In recent mooths he has been leading the police effort to get Father Patrick Ryan

A tall, grey-haired figure, Mr Churchill-Coleman, aged 50, has been a London policeman for 28 years. His career has included command of detectives in the West End. investigation into the death of seven Chinese in a Soho gambling club, and deputy command of the complaints

Namee, one of the IRA's key perserverence and the success-

Somewhere in the bott

Israeli agency 'warned Pan Am of lax security' A man experienced in terror By Charles Bremner, New York, and Stewart Tendler, London. As tighter security measures other gateways. The security incorporated in the airline's If the luggage does not tally one point after a passenger Within a few hours of the Pan with the passes the extra dumped his luggage in the Am crash, Scotland Yard's swung into action at Heath-group was told its services, security routines. luggage is left behind or terminal in the departure area row airport yesterday a ocws-Mr Terry Hickman, presianti-terrorist branch and Mr paper report oo the other side dollars, were no longer needed used by Pan Am and Air dent of Alert Management of searched. George Churchill-Coleman, Canada. of the Atlaotic said that Pan after the survey was com-A spokesman for the depart-Valley Stream, Long Island, a its commander, were alerted pleted because of clashes with The suitcase was left next to ment said the luggage may Am was told two years ago that its security in big Euro-Pan Am subsidiary which to form part of an inter-Pan Am's chief security ofhave been searched, cleared an Air Canada check-in specializes in airport security, national team investigating a pean airports, including ficer, who felt their findings Frankfurt and London, was were too harsh, the newspaper counter, close to a Pan Am and put aboard the aircraft. told the newspaper that possible bombing. By the time the passenger, changes were made after the The terminal was evacuated Israeli report which "satisfied an American businessman, 'dangerously lax". but when police opened the Mr Churchill-Coleman both the security needs of Pan turned up the aircraft was According to the report, the The sources said only coscommander of the branch for abandoned suitcase they back to Britain for trial. Am and the Federal Aviation leaving the boarding gate. finding came from a private metic tinkering, falling below found only clothes. Police more than three years, is no what would be considered Administration". At Heathrow yesterday Israeli security group. They believe the passenger had planned to present a false stranger to Middle Eastern In London yesterday, the Department of Transport said travellers faced increased frehigh professional standards in were engaged by a division of terrorism. As a senior detecquency of hand-haggage Pan Am to assess the airline's the field", ever took place. passport, took fright and fled. tive in 1980 he headed the they would expect the police checks, with particular emphprotection of its passengers But the oewspaper, the New asis on the huge number of transatlantic flights. investigation in the aftermath Despite the crash there was investigation into the backand facilities, according to York Post, gooted an official of the Iranian Embassy siege ground to the crash to look at a no sign of an abatement in the Israeli sources quoted in the with a Pan Am security and two years ago mounted report that PA 103 took off oumber of people flying from But the extra caution did newspaper report from Tel subsidiary in New York as the prosecution against Nezar Hindawi, who tried to put a leaving a passenger behind but oot prevent one false alarm saying the Israeli firm had Crowds packed all four temporarily closing terminal taking his luggage. The Israelis urged sweeping three for several hours.

were called to the airport at

Friends mourn lovely couple

'I kissed little Bryony and

said take care'

By Mark Souster

mother were among the vic-tims of the Pan Am air disaster, it was disclosed vesterday.

Bryony Owen, from Bristol, was travelling with her mother Miss Yvonne Owen, aged 29, a trainee social worker, who was due to spend Christmas with her boy friend.

A last minute change of plan put Miss Owen and her baby on board PA 103. She had



Yvonne Owen: Christmas with her boy friend.

intended to spend the holiday in Paris with her boy friend, a PE teacher, but his sister fell ill in America and he then sent her the money for tickets for them to travel across the

Miss Owen lived in Chelsea Park, Easton, Bristol, and met her boy friend when she travelled to America with her friends from Bristol Polytechnic where she was training to become a social worker.

Her grandfather, Mr Richard Owen, of Pendine, Dyfed, said: "It is a tragedy. Bryony and Yvonne were both

A neighbour, Mr Alfred Lusty, aged 70, said he had seen Miss Owen and Brony just before they left for

"I kissed little Bryony on the cheek and said take care. They did not deserve to

die. Yvonne was a lovely girl. **Promise of**

An 18-month old girl and her She would go without to provide for her. It's difficult to accept we will never see her

Mr Glen Bouckley, aged 27, died as he flew home to America only four days after he was best man at his

brother's wedding. Glen, and his American bride of 10 months, Paula, flew in for the marriage of his brother, Christopher, aged 25, in Sowerby Bridge, West

It was Glen's first trip back to Yorkshire since emigrating to the United States at the start of the year.

Christopher, a teacher, and his bride, Stephanie, cut short their honeymoon to be with the grief stricken family. Last night he said: "We are ab-

solutely devastated by this". Glen, who worked for an electrical wholesale company in New York, met his wife, a doctor, when she visited Eng-

The wealthy head of a ship-broking firm perished in the crash after getting a lastminute seat on the flight to attend an uncle's funeral.

Mr Minos Kulukundis, aged 38, was director and company secretary at his late father's worldwide ship brokerage firm in the City of

He booked on Pan Am while his brother, Elias, and cousin. Eddie the impresario, travelled earlier in the day on Concorde, to attend the funeral They were waiting for him at John F Kennedy Airport in New York.

Staff at Kulukundis & Rethymnis, in New Fetter Lane, yesterday wept over his

Mrs Rose Gray, secretary, said: "He was such a kind hearted man and insisted oo representing his family at the funeral in New York. It all seems such a waste of life."

Mr Kulukundis comes from a large Greek family whose company has offices throughout the world.

He leaves a widow, Marina,



home in The Little Boltons,

West Brompton. His cousin, Eddie, aged 58, has directed West End and Broadway plays, including Pygmalion, and Entertaining

More details emerged yesterday of the family of four from Surrey who were all killed oo their way to spend Christmas with relatives. Mr John Stevenson, and his

their daughters, Hannah, aged 10, and Rachel, aged eight. Mr Stevenson worked for the credit card company Access and travelled widely. His wife was planning to return to her career as a teacher at St Mann's Convent, Weybridge, where the two girls were

Father Eric Flood, of the Church of Our Lady of Per- the London office, said:

held for them after Christmas.

Mr Mark Zwynenburg, aged 29, a bachelor and executive director with the American merchant bank Goldman Sachs International in London, was returning to his family home in New York. He lived in central London.

Mr Eugene Fife, in charge of petual Succour, where the "Mark was an exceptional family worshipped, said a person. This is a tremendous

colleagues." Pan Am employees were

yesterday mourning the loss of the 16-strong crew. The flight deck crew were based in New York: the attendants, a mixture of Americans and Europeans, in London.

Miss Geraldine Murphy, aged 51, of Twickenham, south-west London, who was understood to have been born in Belfast, was a veteran of thousands of flights. She had expressed an interest in mov-ing from her job as senior purser to one of the airline's training departments.

Miss Stacie Franklin, aged 20, an American living in Chiswick, west London, joined Pan Am earlier this year. Stewardess Siv Engstrom, aged 51, lived in Rays Avenue, Windsor, Berkshire.
Neighbours said Miss Engstrom, a Swede, was a cheerful woman whose hobby was making aciddly toys for children's charities.

Mr Robert Schlageter, aged 20, an American student at the 20, an American student at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, was among the dead. He was returning home to Warwick, Rhode Island, where his parents live.

An extra meeting led Mr Saul Rosen to catch the flight. Mr Rosen, a married man with two young children, was the American head of Process Technology, based in Cam-

A company spokesman said: "He came over for an extended series of meetings and decided to add in one more that morning.
Three members of the

Concannon family, from Banbury, Oxfordshire, also died at Lockerbie, en route for a Christmas holiday in the United States,

Mr Tom Concannon and his wife, Bridie, of Nuffield Drive, were accompanied by their son, Sean, aged 16, an Alevel student at the town's Blessed George Napier School

The school's deputy head, Mr Brian Cousins, said Sean "was well liked by everybody".

Leesa Davies was happily singing carols in Coventry Cathedral when she should have been on PA 103. Leesa, aged six, has been staying with her grandmother in Britain since June and was booked several weeks ago to return to the US on the crashed airliner. However, the day before the flight she pleaded to be allowed to spend Christmas with her grandmother, Mrs Melnba Johnson, in Stoney Stantoo Road, Coventry, and

Police hope to keep relatives from site visit

Am disaster who flew into crash scene. Britain from the United States vesterday will be discouraged from visiting the crash site at Lockerbie.

At least 40 relatives have arrived on flights from De-troit, Miami and New York by Pan Am employees, to and more are expected to follow, Pan Am said.

Scottish police said that "for humanitarian reasons" they were trying to dissuade them from going to the scene, where many of the dead still lie scattered around the countryside.

Superintendent Angus Kennedy said that if the relatives arrived, the social services department and the police were ready to help. The first relatives of Ameri-

can passengers who died in Wednesday's crash arrived at Glasgow airport just before hinch yesterday.

Two councillors from Lock-erbie flew in by helicopter to meet eight Americans travelling to Scotland on the 10.15am shuttle from Heathrow. The passengers were also met by Pan Am officials refiname, who before being quickly ushered out of the terminal and taken or we the crash.

Some of the relatives are waiting in Scotland for permission to visit the scene.

Pan Am said: "We are transporting any families who assist with any arrangements that need to be made.

"Some have continued to Scotland and we are waiting for the local authorities at Lockerbie to give the OK for them to visit the site."

One man in his early twen ties, so distressed he was in a state of near collapse, flew into Heathrow from New York aboard a scheduled Pan Am

Boeing 747 jet. He was helped from the aircraft by a Pan Am official Once through the customs hall in Terminal Three, where just over 24 hours earlier the ill-fated PA 103 had departed, one of the airport's chaplains

was on hand to comfort him. He was driven away from the airport with airline officials refusing to reveal his name, where he was being taken or whom he had lost in

Mock crash to test emergency hotline

By Tony Dawe

tragedy next mooth in an exercise to improve Britain's handling of such disasters.

The exercise, planned a month ago for January 12, envisages a DC9 airliner carrying 130 passengers crashing on to the Sheffield to St Pancras railway line and being struck by an InterCity train.

Police, local authority staff and others involved in handling emergencies will have to gather information about the victims" and feed it to a central casualty bureau while casualties", a police spokes-police cadets and volunteers man said. play the part of thousands of relatives telephoning for news.

The information will be gathered and the calls answered at the Bristol telephone exchange used for share

The exercise will test whether the exchange can be-

The emergency services will come Britain's emergency respond to another air crash on the scale of the Lockerbie seeking information about passengers aboard Wednes-day's flight and the trains in the Clapham Junction crash earlier this month have complained that the emergency telephone numbers were always engaged.

The Home Office confirmed yesterday that the trial will be organized by the Association of Chief Police Officers and British Telecom. "We are looking at several ways of improving public access to information about

Mr Simoo Turney, a South Yorkshire emergency planner who is taking part, said: "The difficulty in getting information about casualties is one of the most distressing aspects of major accidents in this country. We need to find a oew system which can handle the

state help by Rifkind

By Kerry Gill

Townspeople in Lockerbie afflicted by Wednesday's disaster will receive help from the Government, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for

Scotland, said yesterday. The Government was assessing the damage to Lockerbie and two Scottish Office officials had been sent to discuss how best to make contribu-tions with Dumfries and Galloway council, he said.

The emergency services and voluntary bodies had given "aid, assistance and comfort to those affected by this terrible tragedy. But belp will be needed for some time to come", he added. Mr Riskind said he had

asked Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Under Secretary of State at the Scottish Office, to keep in close touch with the local authorities.

A legal support group has been established by the Law Society of Scotland to help families of victims.

Professor Ross Harper, the Law Society's president, said the group had been established to give relatives pro-fessional advice. It had considerable experience from

200 made homeless in town

The aftermath

counselling operation to help Lockerbie come to terms with its grief after PA 103 crashed

on the town. Drawing on the experiences of colleagues eisewhere who have dealt with disasters, 10 senior managers and 20 social workers have begun to prepare for months, possibly years, of close involvement with fami-

victims of the Bradford football ground fire three years ago, for example, are still receiving assistance from psychiatrists. Since the crash of the 747,

the immediate needs of the families made homeless and those whose relatives were killed have already been met. The more serious and difficult problems are yet to arise, according to Mr Tom Me-Menamay, director of social

work for Dumfries and Gallo-Yesterday he said: "At the moment there is almost a buoyancy about the place but when the media goes and the world turns its attention

By Peter Davenport

Social services have become skilled over recent years in the demands of grief counselling; the impact on communities of incidents such as the Bradford football ground fire and the Hungerford shootings has cre-ated a national pool of skills and resources.

By yesterday one social worker from Camden, north London and another from Survivors and relatives of Grampian, which handled the Piper Alpha aftermath, were already working alongside Mr McMenamay's team in a noisy, crowded classroom in Lockerbie Academy, the local high school. The academy has been turned into the command centre for those coping with the aftermath of the

> Every social service director in the country has offered assistance and extra social workers will be drafted in.

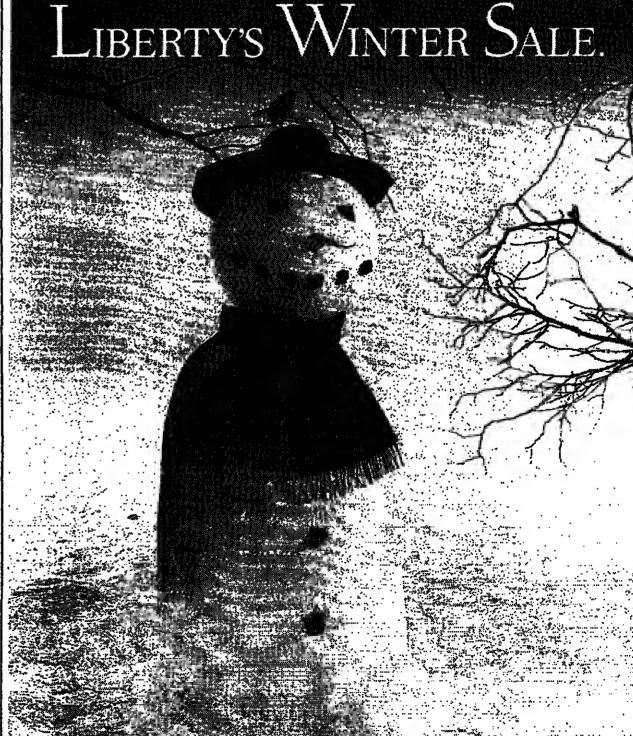
There is also a recognition that social workers themselves and those helping in the unpleasant task of recovering bodies will also need counselling to cope with their Two teams are involved

Teams of social workers have will feel very isolated. That is been assigned to a long-term when our real job begins." with relatives of those who been assigned to a long-term when our real job begins." relatives were expected by the end of the day.

> Mr McMenamay said: "More than 200 people in the town were made homeless, with most going to relatives and 70 staying in botels and guest houses. Our immediate responsibility is to restore people to their more normal way of life as quickly as possible. How that will be funded Idon't want to pursue. It seems to me that it has to be done and then somebody has to worry about how it is funded."

Anyone entering Lockerbie ignorant of the disaster would find many parts of the town apparently normal; shops with Christmas decorations, people cheerfully going about their

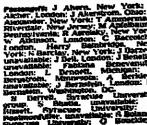
Mr McMenamay said it did not mean the loss of at least 13 adults and four children was not deeply and sincerely felt. It was part of the healing process which communities such as Lockerbie have to go through. The time for public ex-pressions of grief will come when the world has turned its attention elsewhere.

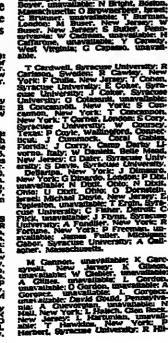


Starts on Tuesday, 27th December at 9.00 am.

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Passengers and crew on ill-fated flight in New York has issued the following list identifying the crew members and passengers











Signalman in TV talk dismissed

By Roland Rudd Employment Affairs Reporter

A British Rail signalman was dismissed yesterday days after he alleged on television that the railway board is suffering from numerous signal failures such as the one that caused the Clapham Junctinn disaster in south London.

Mr Michael Lisicki lost his job after a 75-minute disciplinary hearing at Waterloo station.

He faced three charges: doing a double shift to help a friend; aiding and abetting a friend to be absent from work without authority and for being 17 minutes late for work on

Mr Lisicki said the charges were "trumped up" to dismiss him after he made allegations on BBC's Kilroy programme that signal failures occur

British Rail is victimizing me for what I said on television. Other guys who have been caught doing a double shift in the past have just been given a warning", he said.

Mr Jimmy Stevenson, who repre-sented Mr Lisicki for the National Union of Railwaymen, told the hearing that double shift practices had been going on for years and that on occasion British Rail asked employees to do a double shift when staff are unwell

Mr Lisicki, aged 25, of Chartham Grove, West Norwood, south-east London, yesterday repeated his allegations that "Clapham could happen again unless British Rail stop cutting staff and overworking technicians". He added: "The bosses have to improve pay and employ more experienced staff. The older signals, if

they are maintained properly are adequate, but the new signals, installed on a low budget, could cause another disaster.

British Rail confirmed he had been dismissed "after an incident in November" but was not given official notice of the charges until December

"Mr Lisicki was not sacked or disciplined as a result of appearing on television", it said. Mr Lisicki has seven days to appeal.

 A preliminary meeting of the public investigation into the Clapham Junction disaster is to be held on January 9 in Central Hall, Westminster. It has been called by Mr Anthony Hidden, QC, who was appointed to conduct the inquiry.

Meanwhile British Rail is to order new rolling stock to replace units written off, less than two weeks ago, in the disaster, in which 34 people died. This was revealed in a written answer in the House of Commons by Mr Michael Portillo, Minister of State for Transport.

Six units were effectively destroyed in the collision, and they will be replaced by six additional four-car units of the type used on the ThamesLink line, which operates services from Bedford across the Thames to Gatwick and the south

• The Prime Minister yesterday held out little prospect of eliminating overcrowding on London commuter trains to the extent that all passengers could expect to have a seat.

In a letter to Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, Mrs Thatcher said that it was not yet known whether the trains involved in the disaster were

Mr Clifford Williams, aged 79, a retired chartered accountant of Newbury Gardens. Stopeleigh, Epson. has won the Portfolio competition, picking up £4,000 just before Christmas. He said: "The timing is very good, but we accou very careful with money so I

Yard alerts shoppers to bomb threat

By David Sapsted

An alert to shoppers to be vigilant for terrorist bombs and incendiary devices at new year sales was issued by Scotland Yard last night.

Anti-Terrorist Squad officers searching for both the Christmas sales rush. IRA unit operating a bomh factory discovered in of attacks on stores may very real and, obviously, there Clapham, south London, and continue were heightened by a is a need for the public to be shaven with short hair.

threat posed during the post-

Fears that the recent spate year sales period was "always

the Animal Liberation Front fire early yesterday which particularly vigilant". activists believed to be destroyed a clothes store in responsible for arson attacks Queen's Road, Bristol. "We on stores in London, believe this was arson and that the man they want to interBirmingham, Plymouth and Cardiff this week, are particularly concerned about the Saunders, of Avon and SomerFront, at Howells department set police, said. Scotland Yard store in Cardiff, which caused said the threat over the new

South Wales police yesterday issued a description of to the Animal Liberation Front, at Howells department more than £100,000 of damage. He is described as 5ft 8in, of medium build, and cleanPortfolio

shall probably save it".

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Plea to protect Lake District

By Peter Davenport

New mores to create a legal framework to protect the Lake District from increasing threats to its character and environment are to begin next year. If they are unsuccessful many of the area's qualities may be lost forever.

National Park authorities are to consult national organizations, parish and district councils and individuals about proposals to promote a private Bill which would give wideranging and asprecedented new powers.

Among the more radical suggestions are a tax on tourists spending nights in the Lake District, and powers to control second-home purchases, noise levels, low-flying aircraft, boats using the lakes, and to help local people forced out of the housing market by increasing prices.

Mr John Toothill, the National Park Officer who put forward the proposals, admits they are controversial but he is adament that if nothing is done to limit environmental damage caused by the number of visitors, the character of the area will be destroyed.

These are far-reaching proposals but they need to be aired. Otherwise the lakes themselves will be overrun, dangerous and wastelands for nature conservation." Mr Toothill has been with

the authority for 18 years and he admits that the difficulties have never been worse. Behind the proposals are problems created by the parks'

own success story. It caters for up to 14 million visitors a year and there is no sign of the numbers falling.

The tourism boom, fuelled by easier access by road and rail and greater prosperity, has brought undoubted benefits to the local economy. Up to 45 per cent of all jobs in the Lake District relate to tourism and much of the £275 million spent each year by visitors to Cumbria as a whole is within the Lake District.

Critics say the character of the area has already been destroyed in areas such as Bowness, Windermere and Ambleside

Among the proposals are:

A visitor tax for any tourist who spends a night in the Lake District. A 50p levy would bring in between £2 million and £4 million to the national park authority, whose budget from central and local government is £2 million.

 The authority says it cannot deploy enough funds to secure the future of agriculture in the area, where many hill farmers work on the financial margin, tration system for boats, cover-



Mr John Toothill: "Wastelands for nature conservation".

the sale of farmhouses separately from farm land. • The anthority wants to be given powers to ease the housing problem of local people who find themselves priced out of the market by the demand for holiday bomes.

• The new Bill would give powers to control development of fish farming in the lakes, forestry, and the siting of television satellite dishes and play equipment in hotel

or The Bill would enable the authority to introduce a regis-

ing all the lakes, and enable better control of noise limits and times of use. It would enforce anti-pollution and navigation regulations.

impose a ban, except in emergencies, on military flights below 5,000ft. • It would seek to control motor rallies and ban compet-

The Bill may also attempt to

itive climbing events on the Lake District crags. Mr Toothill, who hopes that a Bill can be submitted by November next year, said: "The balances are becoming distorted and if we do not move they will tip even further."

Coventry bank robbery

Hurd praises shot policeman

By Craig Seton

robber opened fire with a bravely carrying out your which ended a short funeral pump action shotgun has reduced as a police officer. ceived a letter from Mr Douglas Hurd. Home Secretary, praising him for upholding the finest traditions of the police any thought of your personal

Det Constable Leonard Jakeman, aged 38, speaking yesterday for the first time from his hospital bed, said he knew another officer had been speaking shortly after a speaking shortly after the speaking shortly af shot dead when he tackled two bank robbers in Coventry on Monday. He said that by turning to the side as the shotgun was fired, he managed to avoid taking the blast fullon. Instead, the pellets entered his stomach at an angle and emerged from his right side.

Mr Hurd said: "I was as heartbroken relatives January.

"In taking the action you

of Coventry policemen, including senior officers, at-tended the private funeral of Police Constable Gavin Carlton, aged 29, who was shot dead during Monday's shootings, after a raid on the Midland Bank at Tile Hill in the city by two men.

Some officers broke down

A policeman who escaped shocked to hear of the injuries sobbed, their cries the only death by turning just as a bank you received as a result of sounds to break the silence

David Fisher, aged 22, from Newport, Gwent, killed him-self during a siege which followed Monday's shootings.

Nicholas Hill, aged 20, also of Newport, was yesterday remanded in custody at Coventry Magistrates' Court until January 20 accused of murdering PC Carlton, attempting to murder Constable Jakeman and robbery. He faces further charges of attempting to murder a Securicor guard in Swindon, Wiltshire, in September, 1987, and a robbery at the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society in Gloucester, last

Todd gets writ in TGWU vote fight By Roland Rudd, Employment Affairs Reporter

The former chairman of Brit- centre-right members, who

ain's biggest union, the Trans-later left the meeting, when he port and General Workers ruled in favour of Mr Riley's Union, is taking legal action candidature.
against the union's general secretary, Mr Ron Todd. Mr Brian Nicholson, who

lost his seat on the 39-man

executive in last February's elections, claims his oppo-nent, Mr Steve Riley, was not eligible in stand because his contributions were in arrears. Mr Nicholson has issued a right. writ through his solicitors, Lawford and Company, alleg-ing that Mr Todd has "failed

to uphold the union's rules". At a general executive committee meeting last Septem-ber, Mr Todd infuriated the 17 and Plumbing Union.

patients with Parkinson's Dis-

ease, it was disclosed yester-

Professor Edward Hitch-

for Neurosurgery and Neurol-

The right was further enra-ged when Mr Todd also

turned down attempts to suspend Mr Ivan Monkton, a left-

winger from Wales. Mr Todd has ordered an investigation into the disputed election and into the affairs of four regions controlled by the

The inquiry will attempt to determine whether right-wingers in the union have been working with other right-wing activists in the Electrical, Elec-

Drug case man faces extradition

One of the men charged in connection with a global drug smuggling was recommended for extradition to the United States at Bow Street Magistrates Court, central London, yesterday.

He was accused of assisting

in the conspiracy — which ob-tained cannabis and marijuana for the West Coast on the United States - by supplying false passports or travel

arrangements.

James Newton, aged 56, a solicitor, of Kinnerton Place, Knightsbridge, was accused of conspiring to import dangerous drugs into Florida. He will remain in custody to await the decision of the Home Office.

Brain cell transplants 'encouraging'

Britain using tissue from an aborted foetus has now com-But he said: "It is important to stress that the procedure is pleted the operation on 12

still very much at an experimental stage. We shall need to evaluate the progress of each atient very carefully for some time yet before we can say to cock, of the Midland Centre what extent the transplantstion of brain cell tissue will be ogy, Smethwick, West Mid-lands. said that the operations treatment of Parkinson's Disshowed some encouraging signs of alleviating the effects of the disease on the mobility ease for some patients suffering from this debilitating dition." Professor Hitch-

The hospital which pioneered of Parkinson's Disease suffer-brain cell transplants in ers. cock's first brain cell implant in March caused a debate over in March caused a debate over the use of foetal tissue. He emphasized then that there was no question of foctuses being aborted to facilitate the operations and said the foctal material came from a tissue

> He also appealed to his critics to consider whether it was ethical to withhold from Parkinson's Disease sufferers a technique which could offer them some prospect of relief.

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Bleak Leeds L

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bank. The hospital's ethics committee gave the go-shead.

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Bleak forecast for Leeds University as it faces £3m debt

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

Leeds University has joined a income would "imply an eco-growing oumber of colleges nomies programme nearly as years will be identified and the financial report which reveals that it faces debts of more than £3 millioo next year.

According to Sir Edward Parkes, vice chancellor of Leeds, the university had a net deficit of £1.643 million last year and would be budgeting for a deficit of more than £3.4 million in 1988-89.

Leeds joins Aberdeen University which earlier this month announced that it was accumulating debt at £2 millioo a year and faced insolvency unless it received a substantial injection of funds, and University College, London, whose debt of £13.6 million has come under the scrutiny of the Department of Education

The last time a university was subjected to such an inquiry of this type was when University College, Cardiff, was rescued by the Government with thore than £11 million after it was revealed that the college had spent at an insupportable rate.

Sir Edward said in his annual report to the Leeds University Court that "the recurrent grant (from the Government) for universities is planned to increase by about 10 per cent in cash terms over three years yet Treasury estimates inflation over the same period is expected to be in the order of 12 per

He said in the light of that the university would have to plan for a reduction of 7 per cent in real terms which, unless it was offset by extra

facing penury according to its drastic as that we had to initiate in 1986" when 300 staff were dismissed

 After a decade of stagnation in the academic job market as many as 1,000 places for young academics are to be made available over the next five years under the Govern-ment's revamped "new blood" scheme.

A total of £70 million has been set aside to ensure that the project goes smoothly after widespread criticism that the Government's previous plan was too inflexible because it was centrally managed, allowing little room for local adaptation. The money comes from the £155 million restructuring fund allocated in November for three years plus £20 million from this year's public expenditure review.

Unlike the previous scheme the money will be allocated according to student ournbers in subjects and will give managers the opportunity to recruit according to academic plans agreed with the University Grants Committee, which distributes government funds to universities, and has re-cently been replaced by the Universities Funding Council.

Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, chairman of the new council, has warned that the career structure in academe, which at present means that there is "bunching" at highly-paid senior levels and prevents resources being made available for new entrants, would pose problems for both initial entry and retirement.

Chairs and lectureships to

Post haste for Christmas



Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the Post Office to "Reindeerland" this year. But it touched the hearts of Royal Mail workers and they did the rest. "We thought it was just the sort of thing that is a symbol and epitomizes

what Christmas is all about", Sir Bryan said. what Christmas is all about", Sir Bryan said. The chair will be handed over to Mr Rule in the new year once it has been modified for his special requirements. This year the Royal Mail has faced the biggest Christmas challenge in 350 years, Sir Bryan said, and it had met it successfully. About 1.5 billion letters and cards have been posted, beating last year's record of 1.4 billion.

Pupils will get 'a free' GCSE

By Our Education Reporter

Thirty thousand fifth-form pupils will qualify for GCSE science next summer without haviog to sit an examinatioo or carry out any formally

assessed course work.
The School Examinations and Assessment Council has approved a oew method of examining known as graded assessment pioneered by the

I Loodon East Anglian Group under the supervision of throughout England.

GCSEs at the age of 11.

Graded assessment works on the principle of a ladder, with 15 "levels of achievemeot" through which pupils progress from the ages of 11 to 16. The top five levels equate to GCSE grades.

Instead of examinations and formal course work teachers are left to devise their own methods of assessing the be awarded certificates by the performance of their pupils

began studying for their examiners who make moothly calls.

The founders of the system which has been developed over 10 years, say it allows pupils to progress at their own pace with the brightest able to gain the equivalent of an O level at the age of 14.

The first pupils to qualify will be drawn from more than 40,000 who have been taking part in a pilot programme in 25 local authority areas local authority areas

NEWS ROUNDUP

Demand drops for home loans

last mooth to its lowest level since January, the Building Societies Association said yesterday. Its figures show that bigh interest rates are working through the housing market to cool the economy.

Home loan rates rose in August and October, and are expected to go up again to the new year after a further increase in base rates late last mooth in the wake of the record balance of payments deficit.

Net new mortgage commitments last mooth were worth £3,445 million, down from £3,588 million in October. In January, a traditionally quiet month, the figure was £2,877 million. Mr Mark Boleat, the association's director general. said commitments last month had continued the downward trend established in the summer when interest rates began rising and double tax relief for joint borrowers ended.

YTS places 'adequate'

Sufficient places in the Youth Training Scheme are available in all parts of the country for young people who want them, Mrs Thatcher told Mr Kinnock yesterday. In reply to a letter from the Labour leader about homeless teenagers, she said there were 129,000 unfilled places at the end of last month and it was not correct to say that 20,000 could not find a place when they had exhausted their bridging allowance. "I understand that many of them had made no effort at all to find a place during the eight weeks they had been paid to do so," she said.

Union merger plan

Nearly 150,000 Civil Servants are to get details of a proposed merger between their union and the giant GMB. Mr John Ellis, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, said he was determined that his members should have the chance to amalgamate with the GMB instead of only with the National Union of Civil and Public Servants. If delegates at the association's annual conference turn down the proposals for a merger with the NUCPS, as twice before, the way will be open to amalgamate with the GMB to create a union with a million members.

Ryan letter action

The Foreign Office has begun disciplinary proceedings against an official suspended after writing a letter to *The Guardian* accusing Mrs Margaret Thatcher of "self-righteous invective" over the Father Patrick Ryan affair. Mr Patrick Haseldine, a second secretary, has received a copy of a formal complaint alleging he contravened the Diplomatic Service Regulations. It marks the start of a procedure which could end in dismissal. He has been at home on full pay since publication of the letter, which accused the Prime Minister of having double standards oo extradition.

Falklanders reassured

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Falkland islanders last night that the Government would oever accept the arguments of those who refused to recognize their right to decide their own future. She said in ber Christmas broadcast to the islands that Britain was determined to uphold that right. Sovereignty was not for oegotiatioo. "This year's debate at the United Nations saw a further reduction in support for Argentina, a clear sign the international community is losing interest in this pointless vote."

Dorchester spruce-up

The Dorchester in Londoo closed its doors yesterday for a £72 millioo refurbishment which management said will enable it to retain its position as one of the world's luxury botels. The Sultan of Brunei bought the botel in 1985 for an undisclosed sum after it had changed hands several times in the preceding decade.

Father invents alarm to avert cot deaths

A father who lost a baby son West Glamorgan, said: "Uo-

other young lives. Mr Clive Morris, aged 37,

has set up a company to produce a monitoring device to detect sudden changes in temperature. His own family tragedy,

wheo his soo Steven died 19 years ago, prompted him to study research into the syndrome thought to kill up to 2.000 babies a year in Britain. Mr Morris, of Port Talbot,

through cot death has inven- like some other monitors on ted an alarm system to save the market, which rely oo movement or breathing, this alarm is activated by temperature which the medical profession believes more and more is the key factor in cot death".

His Teletab 90, or Temperature Alarm for Babies, will sell for about £90. A sensor pad picks up any significant rise or fall in temperature, triggering off

College run on Christian line

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

The first City Technology improvement chain, have a central role in the school College to be run on Christian raised £1.5 million towards day. The sponsors said yeslines will open in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear in September 1990, it was announced yester-

The 900-pupil college will Group, owners of the Presto be on the site of the St John and Safeway, supermarket Fisher School, Lobley Hill, a chains. The Government will Roman Catholic comprehen-sive which closed earlier this

group of Christiao businessmen oo Tyneside, led by Mr Peler Vardy, chairman and Mr Albert Dicken, chair- morals and ethics.

that the support they had received

from the public made them realize

"we do not face the situation alone".

Mr Waite, special envoy for the

Archbishop of Canterbury, vanished io Beirut on January 20, 1987, while

on a mission to seek the release of

Since then there has been no word

the capital costs.

Among other companies taking part are John Laing, the construction group, and Argyll provide the balance of the necessary £6 million.

As well as providing technology-based education to pupils aged between 11 and 18, the college will place a strong of Reg Vardy Motor Group emphasis on Christian values.

The family of Mr Terry Waite, who is spending his second Christmas as a hostage in Beirut, said yesterday from him or his captors. His brother, Mr David Waite, said in a statement on behalf of the family end to this situation and for their

yesterday: "During this year a day has not gone by without the Waite family remembering Terry in the circumstances that he finds himself

and, as Christmastime approaches,

our thoughts and prayers are

particularly with him and all those

"We are grateful for the continued

he went to the Lebanon to help.

terday: "Respect for tradi-tional family life will play a significant part in the school curriculum".

savings from salaries calcu-

lated so that new staff can be

recruited at lower incomes

with extra funds being drawn

According to the Times Higher Education Supple-ment, Sir Mark Richmond,

chairman of the Committee of

Vice Chancellors and Prin-

cipals, welcomed the fact that

money was to be made avail-

"This time we will be able to

bring on people a year or two ahead of time. We can recruit

someone in a new area, know-

ing that someone else will be going in an old area", Sir Mark, vice chancellor of

Manchester University, which

is to get an extra £2.57 million

over the next five years, said.

Lager louts come under examination in a university

degree course on rioting and

civil unrest. Leicester Univer-

sity's master of arts degree in

public order will focus on football hooliganism, unrest and rioting in Britain and the

rest of the world, and is the

first degree of its kind in Britain and will be oo offer to

students of the one-year

course by October. It is hoped

policemen, social workers, probation officers and Civil

Servants might be among

Mr John Benyon, sociology

lecturer in charge of the course, said: "We live in a

society that is considerably

more violent than, say, 10 years ago. Violence in Britain

is oo the increase and we

ought to be trying to under-

potential recruits.

able as a lump sum.

from the £70 million fund.

Children of all faiths will be eligible to attend. Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said: "The school

will serve as a beacoo of excellence for the area." Mr Vardy said last night: We are protecting our own futures by ensuring that children emerge from school with a

largest of the GCSE examination boards. The 30,000 pupils who will

Waite family hails public's support after Beirut kidnap and goodwill, we would encourage people of every creed and culture to use their energy and influence to

postman from Modbury, Devon.

who has encouraged 100,000 people

in the West Country alone to send

bring about the return of all Mr Waite's mother, Mrs Lena Waite, has sent a card of thanks to Mr Malcolm Hipwell the retired

It is the second Christmas that Mr Hipwell has urged anyone with a spare card to send it to Mr Waite, using the address "c/o The Kidnappers, Beirut, Lebanoo". The Archbishop of Canterbury,

speaking oo BBC Radio 4's World at One yesterday, said: "Sometimes people have asked me what I want for Christmas and I have to answer, "I would like Terry Waite back"."

STARTS TUESDAY 27TH DECEMBER

Councils aid Armenia

belp and support during this year.

the Government's moves to seek

ways of improving relations be-

couragement have been received from members of the public making

us realize that we do oot face the

tween Britain and Iran.

"We have also been heartened by

"Many letters of support and en-

Local authorities are sending of the association, said: engineers and construction "Employees from the London and public health workers to Fire and Civil Defence Auhelp with rebuilding after the Armenian earthquake.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities, organizing the drive, has already had £20,000 from Hammersmith and Fulham in west London.

Sir Jack Layden, chairman

thority have already been involved in the rescue operation, but the need from now on will be for health and construction workers, public health inspectors and engineers to help the Russians rebuild."

Evacuation, page 6

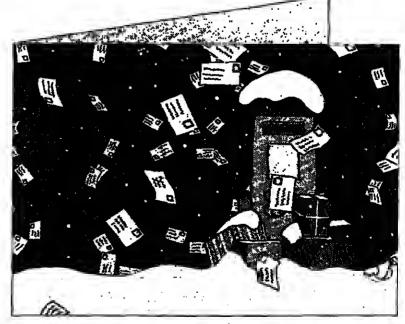
Air Miles is the exciting new collection scheme that was launched in the UK on November 1 st. It allows you to fly free to over 150 destinations worldwide with British Airways and other leading airlines.

The response to the Air Miles scheme has been overwhelming. As a result you may be experiencing some delay in receiving your Air Miles registration pack, including the 28 page brochure, collectors wallet and 5% bonus voucher. These should be with you in the next 14 days.

If you want to join the Air Miles scheme but have not yet registered, we have some good news for you. We have extended our initial 5% bonus voucher offer to the 31 st january 1989.

Telephone (0293) 515633 or 515700 for further details and keep collecting your Air Miles vouchers. Then some time in the New Year you could be boarding a plane to your dream holiday destination.

A billion and a half Christmas Greetings to you all.



We have delivered 1,500,000,000 greetings and gifts to twenty three million homes this Christmas. Now we are adding our own greeting to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We like to think that Christmas couldn't be Christmas without the Post Office. We handle more letters and parcels in a single day at Christmas than all other commercial carriers combined handle in a whole year.

The Post Office In business to serve you this Christmas.

Joy over bribe case acquittals

US embarrassed by Reagan revelation on military strike

would not say it's our inten-tion to attack it."

An Administration official

US was not ruling out a

military option, "the thrust is the international conference". Mr William Webster, the director of the CIA, said the

part in a sit-in at the plant.

Intelligence and Congress sources have said the US has

face-to-air missiles, and des-

America about the chemical

the Third World.

somewhat embarrassed by the recent meeting in New York, publicity given to President but the Soviet leader said he Reagan's speculations on a pre-emptive strike against a Libyan chemical weapons facility, and spokesmen have asized that US officials are still consulting allies.

President-elect George Bush, showered with questions about Mr Reagan's re-mark in a pre-recorded ABC television interview that he was discussing the possibility of destroying the factory, said the US would seek the belp of European allies to "turn around the Libyan regime". Only if that failed would he consider other options.

He said the US planned to discuss the Libyan project "in considerable detail" at an international conference on chemical weapons in Paris from January 7 to 11. The 100-nation conference was proposed by President Reagan m a speech to the United Nations in September. The US will be represented by Mr George Shultz, the Secretary

Mr Bush said the US should not give up trying to change the policy of the Libyan regime. But it was "inappro-priate" to go into details of other possible actions.

Mr Bush has a strong personal commitment to the troying it will not be easy. abolition of chemical weap. • LONDON: The Governoos, for which he is seeking an ment has been consulting early treaty with Moscow. Presideot Reagan raised the weapons factory, but Presi-issue of the factory with dent Reagan's revelation that

The United States appears President Gorbachov at their military action to destroy it was being considered has also had no information about it. sment in Whitehall (Andrew While citing the Administration's "extreme concern"

Such an attack might inabout the factory, 35 miles south-west of Tripoli, Mr Marlin Fitzwater, the White volve the use of the American bombers based in Britain which carried out the bombing House spokesman, said: "I raid on Tripoli in 1986.

The Foreign Office refused to confirm or deny that military action had been discussed had earlier said that while the by the Allies. "We are considering what to do about it (the adding that no form of action had been ruled out, but that this should not be taken as confirmation that a military option was on the cards.

Libya denies that the Rabta plant, 35 miles south-west of Tripoli, is used for chemical Whitehall sources sugge there was some doubt that the factory was actually producing weapons, and says it makes chemical weapons. Tripoli has only pharmaceuticals there (Our Foreign Staff writes). said it produces medicines, and it could be doing both, since certain substances can be The official news agency says doctors and nurses are to take used as chemical bases for either weapons or medicines. But the fact that the factory is chemical-metallurgical comapparently heavily protected plex was the largest known strengthens suspicions about themical weapons facility in

Observers believe Britain would be reluctant to sanction-the use of the US bases for a precise aerial photographs of the factory. It is heavily defended by Soviet-made surstrike and would greatly prefer a diplomatic approach.

The Foreign Office yes-terday emphasized the im-portance it attaches to cext month's Paris conference, which it hopes will strengthen the determination of other countries to halt the spread of

Miss Beth Myerson, left, and her friend Sandy Stern, jabilant in the back of a taxi yesterday after a New York jury had acquitted Miss Myerson on all charges that she bribed an elderly woman

The verdicts, after the jury deliberated for three days, deliberated for three days, cracked the regal composure of Miss Myerson, aged 64, who was a television personality in the 1960s and held the post of Cultural Affairs Commissioner under Mayor Edward Koch (Charles

judge to intervene in the

divorce of her younger lover.

"Justice has been done," she sobbed as she was comforted by Mr Andy Capasso, the sewerage contractor 20 years her junior whose divorce was at the centre of the trial. Miss Myerson's co-defenacquitted on all charges. But, as newspapers pointed out yesterday, the 1945 Miss America faces a long fight to restore her reputatio

For weeks, New York's television, its tabloid press and its magazines have savoured the lurid details of Miss Myerson's character and complicated personal life, including the fact that a police investigation revealed that she wrote obscene letters to rivals for the affections of previous

Former friends described her as vindictive and meanspirited. She was also convicted of shoplifting in Peansylvania while awaiting the corruption trial.

The collapse of the federal corruption case in the "Bess Mess" has dented the prestige of Mr Rudolph Giuliani, the dants, Judge Hortense Gabel crusading New York pros-and Mr Capasso, were also ecutor who has built his

reputation as a white-coller "crime-buster", bringing to book insider dealers, corrupt politicians and Mafia bosses. Newspapers speculated yes-

terday whether Mr Giuliani would now go ahead with a widely-expected ran to become the Republican candidate for Mayor of New York in next year's election. Apart from being a political fiasco, the trial cost millions.

Miss Myerson had been accused of giving a low-paying job to the emotionally disturbed daughter of Judge Hortense Gabel, aged 75, in return for a reduction in Mr Capasso's alimony payments to his former wife.

Mr Capasso is serving a three-year jail sentence for tax frand. Mayor Koch, who had been called to give evidence against his former close col-

been tainted by a string of corruption scandals, partly owed his election in 1978 to the presence of the popular Miss Myerson at his side throughout the campaign. He had previously been dogged by rumours of homosexuality.

Jurors said yesterday they had rejected the evidence of the star prosecution witness, Miss Sukhreet Gabel, the indge's daughter, aged because they found Miss Gabel's vivid tes-timony, some of it obtained by

taping family conversations with a hidden recorder, propelled her to instant celebrity on New York television talk shows. She is thinking of writing a book. One juror said the prosecu-

league, said yesterday he was tion had presented only "melo"giad for Miss Myerson as a drama and a hint of sleaze".

French curb on police drinking

From Philip Jacobson Paris

In the wake of the recent conviction of a Paris police inspector who shot and killed an unarried youth after have ing consumed a large quantity of alcohol while on duty, the Ministry of the Interior is to clamp down oo the apparently long-established tradition of boozy sessions inside local

commissariats. France's boys in blue will still be able to enjoy wine, beer and cider with their meals but the hard stuff, it seems, is out. Hopefully that means there will be no repeat of the events that led to inspector Patrick Savrey being given a seven-year jail sentence last month for voluntary homicide.

By the time he drew his Smith & Wesson 38 special and shot an 18-year-old youth of Algerian origin at close enough red wine and Ricard to raise his blood/alcohol count to 1.85 grammes, far above the legal driving limit in France. But Savrey had left the Madeleine commissariat behind the wheel of an official car with a colleague in the passenger scat.

Not long afterwards, Savrey was taking a whisky at the Tout Va Bien bar in a Paris suburb when a hrawl started. Witnesses say he turned, shouted "police" and immediately fired a single shot ioto the chest of Abdel Benyahia. At Savrey's trial, prosecution experts claimed that he would have needed to consume at least 20 large glasses of Ricard in the space of an hour to reach his alcohol/blood level. The court also heard that he had subsequently been classified of-

Many 'homeless by choice' From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

said that many homeless people slept oo grates or oo the grass from their own choice, instead of going to

He also claimed in a teleber up to three million - were voluotarily left institutions in out there' which they had been placed.

oce-hour valedictory interview with ABC Television.

increase in homelessness oo homelessness. the American Civil Liberties Union for successfully promoting changes in the law that allowed the "mentally impaired" to be kept in institu
union for successfully promoting changes in the law that allowed the "mentally impaired" to be kept in institu
paired" to be kept in institu
puted, with some groups givthat he "doesn't stand i same box with Gorbach far as I am concerned".

President Reagan, on the eve tions only if they represented a that there were around of his departure for his lush home in Bel Air, Los Angeles, themselves. As a result, many that out everyone had been had left these institutions. "They wanted freedom, but they walked out to where there was nothing for them," he

said. Asked about the people sleeping in a park 200 yards vision interview that a large from the Oval Office where percentage of the country's the interview was taped, Mr homeless – estimated to oumways be people who "make it sitioo in the Soviet Union was "retarded" people who had their own choice for staying strong enough to oust Presi-

There are shelters in virtu- ally known advocate for the had been dominated by the ally every city and shelters homeless, said that during a Communist Party, representhere, and those people still recent bitter cold spell in prefer out there, oo the grates Washington, people had to be or the lawn, to going ioto one turned away from shelters of those shelters," he said in a already filled beyond capacity. President-elect George Bush spoke last week of the oeed to The President blamed the end the "national shame" of

The figures are bitterly dis-

helped by the improvement in the ecocomy. But he claimed there were plenty of vacancies, saying that on any Sunday The Washington Post carried from 60 to 75 pages of job

was asked whether the oppodent Gorbachov He said that, Mi Mitch Snyder, a nation- until now, the Government ing only a tiny elite. So it was possible, as in the past, for leaders suddenly to be ousted. Though he did not see any indication or threat of that yet, it had to be considered when

In the interview Mr Reagan

looking at Soviet history. Mr Reagan also called President Ortega of Nicaragua a "shameless dictator", adding that he "doesn't stand in the same box with Gorbachov as

Armenia quake evacuation nears its end From Mary Dejevsky Moscow Sources in Moscow yesterday gave More than 20,000 people, about half

the area on December 7. Mr Stepan Shalayev, leader of the official Soviet trade unioo organization, who is supervising the evacuation, hoped it would be completed by

of them children, have still to be

evacuated from oorth-eastern Arme-

nia after the earthquake which struck

The Politburo commissioo overseeing the relief operation reported on Thursday evening that more than 92,000 people had already been evacuated - 20,000 more than the initial estimate. Fifty thousand have been given temporary accommodation in rest homes and youth camps in Georgia, the Crimea and the sooth of

The commission said most of the evacuces were children with their teachers, and elderly people. But the operation has met problems. One credence to speculation that President Gorbachov will visit Britain in the second half of January (Andrew McEwen writes). No decision has been made, although Britain has said he is welcome whenever he wishes to come.

report spoke of survivors lying down in the path of hulldozers to prevent the rubble being cleared until it had been thoroughly searched for missing relatives.

Rumours that earthquake orphans would be moved to Russia and adopted by Russian families, or that a large part of the Armenian populatioo would never be allowed to return, were dismissed by the authorities as scaremongering, and were said to have originated from Armenian nationalist groups.

When the evacuation is completed, one of the most scrious difficulties will be the reunification of families

separated by the disaster, Immediately after the earthquake, the only way survivors had of finding relatives was to post messages on tree stumps and fences near their former homes. Now, the Communist youth newspaper in Yerevan is distributing a special daily supplement containing details of survivors who want to trace relatives.

But there were many small babies who would be unable to say who they were, and reuniting surviving parents and children would take a long time, one newspaper said.

A special centre has been set up, based at the Yerevan Conservatoire, to co-ordinate all information about survivors. Parents of lost children can go and register detailed descriptions including colour of hair and identifying marks like scars and birthmarks. It has the names of about 25,000

Many daily papers are publicizing individual cases of children who have lost their parents - "Help me find my mummy," the central youth news-

terday, and told the story of a small boy who lost his parents in the earthquake, but whose uocle had been traced after some elaborate detective work hy one of the centre's staff. The Yerevan centre has also been

registering the names of people who wanted to adopt Armeniao orphans, But they had already had more than 8,000 requests, and had had to close the lists. They would only give children for adoption, a spokesman said, if their pareots had been established dead. GENEVA: Senior International

Red Cross officials reported yesterday that relief workers have the situation in Armenia widely under cootrol after two weeks of what they say were poorly co-ordinated efforts (AP reports). Mr George Reid, acting chief delegate of the League of Red Cross Societies' Armenian delegation, said from Yerevan that rehabilitation efforts were oow under way in "a race against winter".

WORLD ROUNDUP

Sri Lanka to end emergency state

Colombo - More than 2,000 people held uoder Sri Lanka's six-year state of emergency will be freed on January 15, the Government announced yesterday. The Minister for National Security, Mr Lalith Athulathmudalai, who also said that the six-hour nationwide curfew would be lifted for three days over Christmas, adding that the Government did not plan to extend the emergency when it lapses in mid-January (Vijitha Yapa writes).

But despite the minister's claim that last Mooday's

presidential election had halted the spiral of political killings mostly attributed to the Sinhalese People's Liberation Front, six more murders were reported yesterday.

Three supporters of the ruling United National Party were

killed at Narammala, and three workers of Indian origin were killed at Haputal, in the central hills. Security sources hlamed the Liberation Froot.

UN winner killed

Rio de Janeiro - The president of a Brazilian rubber tappers' union, renowned for his efforts to protect the Amazon forest, was shot dead at point-blank range by a man with a shotgun as he stepped from the door of his home in Xapuri, a village of rubber tappers in the north-west Amazonian state of Acre (Mac Margolis writes).

Senhor Franciso Mendes Filho, aged 44, who woo a UN ecology prize on World Environment Day last year for his

work protesting at the destruction of the Amazon area, had often said he was at the top of a ranchers' murder list.

Moscow woos king

Rome - A senior Soviet envoy flew here yesterday in an attempt to secure the exiled King of Afghanistan's government after Moscow withdraws its troops in Feb-ruary (Roger Boyes writes) Mr Yuli Vorontsov, the Soviet Ambassador to Kahul and a Deputy Foreign Minister, will meet King Zahir Shah. right. today in Mos-Shah. right. today in Mos-cow's first direct contact with the monarch, who has been io exile since 1973.



Blast in aircraft hold

Madrid - An explosioo in the hold of an airliner shortly after more than 110 passengers and crew disembarked here vesterday was attributed by police to a "souvenir" artillery shell io a Spanish soldier's duffel bag on board Aviaco Airlioes' Flight 185 from Palma de Mallorca (Harry Debelius writes). A baggage handler was hurt. A second shell was discovered in the bag of another soldier sooo after the

Attack on free space trips

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

newspaper has attacked the that the less useful a foreign practice of giving free trips friendly nations and called for the programme to be put on a commercial basis.

It said that the Soviet Unioo had precious few things that were competitive on the world market, and its present displays of generosity were a mark of unprofessionalism and poor husbandry.

The article, in the Communist youth newspaper, Komsomolskaya Pravda, had particularly harsh words for the joint Soviet-Afghan mission, which it described as a shambles from the first "press conference" in space, during which there had been virtually no translation into Russian, to the dramatic landing - at the third attempt. The author, Sergei Leskov, said that there

An article in an official Soviet was an argument for deciding which Nasa, the American cosmonaut would be in space, the more his country should have to pay for the privilege.

If, as had been proposed for a joint Soviet-Austrian space flight cext year, the guest was Soviet organizations, is sup-going to conduct important posed to be switching to a scientific experiments, then the price could be lower. But if he was just coming along for the ride, the price should reflect the real cost.

It was quite acceptable for the Americans to take a Saudi astronaut into space, because his country could pay. But if a nation could not pay, then perhaps it would do better to stay in the age of the steam engine where it belonged.

Mr Leskov, while insisting that the Soviet Union should not take the US as its model in everything, had high praise for

space agency, had to operate and the fact it must compete for government funding on the basis of published economic projections. The space sector, like all

system of self-financing in the new year but, Mr Leskov said, there was little sign of change. He criticized the fact that there were oo published fig-

ures for the cost of Soviet space ventures and objected that space scientists tended to regard resources as limitless. They needed to show greater responsibility. Mr Leskov's insistence that

people should know how much money was being spent on a sector which has brought little material benefit reflects a growing national concern with value for money".

Soviet atomic power halt

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

new ouclear power stations awaiting seismological reports and suspended the extension on the area. of three others because of concern about safety. At the atomic power stations in same time, the first interouclear power station - the country's newest - has revealed shortcomings in the standard of building and

The Minister of Atomic Power, Mr Nikolai Lukonin, said yesterday that work had been stopped on projected power stations near the Byelorussian capital, Minsk, and near Krasnodar, in the south of the Russian Federation, and Odessa, on the Black Sea, because the design did not meet regulations introduced

after the Chernobyl disaster.

The second stage of work on

neighbouring Georgia and national inspection of a Soviet Armenia has been halted for sure and seismological considerations has brought the suspension of work on the planned third and fourth reactors.

The First Secretary of the Communist Party of Armenia had said in October that the Armenian power station would be closed within two years because of public concern about safety. The Soviet Prime Minister,

Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, re-Building of a new atomic peated the pledge after the power station planned for Armenian earthquake on

The Soviet authorities have Azerbaijan will not be com- December 7. Yesterday, Mr halted construction of four pleted for the time being Lukonin said the plant had been checked after the earthquake and had withstood the tremors without damage.

Mr Lukonin was addressing a press conference about the first inspection of a Soviet the same reason, and at nuclear power station — at Ignalina, in Lithuania, a Rovno in the Ukraine — by a combination of public pres- team from the International team from the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The leader of the team, Mr. Maurice Rosen, noted that there were defects in building work and in the equipment supplied to the power station. which staff at the station theo had to remedy. He gave no details of the precise faults, saying that this was a matter to be sorted out with the supplier ooe of the Soviet machinebuilding ministries.

Moscow agreed to IAEA inspection after the 1986 Chernohyl nuclear accident.

High-fiving Bush fires laser shots at language From Charles Breumer

'Hey, let's get on with this President

thing." Mr George Bush may not have attered those words, but any American who has absorbed more than a couple of "sound bites" in the past few months would guess that was him. The sentence is pure

The new President is bringing with him into office a slangy idiom that reveals much about the Bush mind. In the interests of transatlantic understanding, here is a brief primer in the new President's English and the way it reflects the current citizens' idiom. For a start, there is the Bush

syntax - or rather lack of it. Governor Michael Dukakis may owe part of his downfall to his rare ability to come up with subject, verb and object before the fall stop. His verbal skill did not help his attempt to be the man of the people. Bushspeak prefers the rambling,

haphazard, stream-of-consciousness

style popularized by President Rea-

gan and now widely shared by other

politicians, pop stars, teenagers and

thing changes, the White House transcript office will need a blizzard of dots and dashes to help untangle the new presidential utterances.

Then there is the Bush affection for the macho slang he hears on his favourite Country and Western radio stations. He likes to "go ballistic" and fire "laser shots" when he is angry. "It was Tension City," he says when the dust settles. And he loves to sprinkle his talk with the "heys" that have come into vogue over the past year or two.

Here are Mr Bush's thoughts on press criticism: "Four years ago I'd go ballistic when I read some of this stuff. But, hey, let him do his thing and [7] do mine." "Thing" is another Bush favour-

ite. He has talked recently of "the vice-presidential thing" and the "Persian Gulf thing" and, of course, his "vision thing" became a catchphrase of the campaign. The President-elect is also a free borrower of fashionable youth slang, though it often sounds odd from his lips. Top of this glossary is the "high-five sign", the skyward slapping of palms that originated in the Exulting in his selection as candidate, Mr Bush several times used these words when recalling the last sitting Vice-President to win the presidency.

"I just couldn't help think that old Martin Van Buren was up there giving me the high-five sign." Mr Bush has also been known to urge people to "hey, lighten up", another of the 1988 vogue phrases.

• Four years ago I'd go ballistic when I read some of this stuff

Mr Bush, though, is no more guilty than other politicians of over-using the current cliches from the business-political-media world. "You don't have to be a rocket scientist/brain surgeon" to know that these "go with the territory", to

For example, Mr Dukakis's reaction on the day of defeat last month was to shrug and say: "It goes with the territory."

use just two of the current favourites.

can make money out of it", and "concept", as in "let's talk concept", a phrase that means "I haven't done my homework". Other popular slang from tele-

vision-land is making it into public life. For example, the venerated Dr Henry Kissinger asked in *The* Washington Post this week: "Is Gorbachov for real?" Across the country, Americans are telling one another this winter to "get real" and the highest compliment you can pay is to call someone a "very real person". The opposite is, of course, not "mareal" but insincere or

A very real person can, of course, be a very "happening" kind of guy but never a "groovy" one, at least for the young. In current youthspeak, "groovy" means the opposite of what it did for all the "granolas" who used it the first time round.

Dr Kissinger, too old even to be a "granola", would be unlikely to call Mr Gorbachov a "happening kind-adude" since this is strictly under 25-

US politicians are also picking up
the businessman's "do-able", a nearest America has to muesli, is

people, though, are usually held by the new youth crowd to be "PC". This has nothing to do with computers. "Politically Correct" implies an ideology aligned to the newly emerging neo-left.

But newcomers should not be confused by another shifted meaning. It would be no mistake, for example, to show your approval of Mr Bush by calling him "totally radical" or just plain "rad". The word just means excellent.

Dr Kissinger and Mr Bush would also not be "dissed" to hear that they were not "PC". To "diss" someone these days means to insult them. At the end of a year which has

seen the most intense political marketing in history, it is no surprise that the popular language is absorbing and incorporating phrases borrowed from the mirror world of the television commercial. The other day, one football coach described his feelings after his team's victory: "It doesn't get any better than this." That phrase comes straight from a well-known beer commercial, but there was no sign that a quote was irens ta

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Vatican relies on eternal vigilance in search for the next saint

They are invisible of course, like all good ghosts, but they crowd out the austere ante-rooms of the Jesuit headquarters, waiting their turn to join the Communion of Saints.

They are a strange company: soldiers, an American millionaire, women who fought off rape, missionaries, concentration camp inmates. All led brave Christian lives, some died the most spectacular and grisly of Christian deaths.

The Vatican's saint specialists - at the Congregation of Saints and the College of Postulators - are working full peh.

To walk the corridors of the Vatican at this time of year is to be struck by the contrast between the two Romes. Italy has been winding down to Christmas since November, only the ritualized consumer frenzy prevents it from falling into a narcoleptic daze. The Vatican, meanwhile, is teeming like an ant-heap; clerks bustle with papers as io a company that has to prepare its tax returns by midnight.

The Vatican saint factory has been breaking production records for 10 years, matching the Pope's desire, and the Church's need, for models of holiness. There have been more than 314

people beatified in this papacy. This Pope has beatified and canonized more than any othe Pontiff in history.

Father Paolo Molinari, the president of the College of Postulators, is a theological gung-ho. Is there any man in the Vatican who delves more deeply into private lives and beliefs?

Local churches first present the case for canonization of a devout parishioner, a man or a woman who appears to shine with sanctity. The candidate's dossier arrives at the postniators' office, which acts not only as a research and detective agency but also as a form of lawyer, preparing a case for judgement by the Congrega-tioo of Saints. "I have to look for all the evidence possible and to prepare a special volume that will be submitted to a number of consultants. Usually it goes first to the historians. From them it goes to the theologians, then to the cardinals and bishops." But this understates the complexity of selecting and promoting saints.

Is a parish suppressing negative evidence? Was the holy man merely good? Were there suspicious or political circumstances surrounding his death? Such questions can only be answered by thorough document checks and by questioning wimesses, in the manner of an orthodox biographer.

Father Molinari said: "I don't like to stress the

comparison with a traditional investigation of a police station. You mention somebody, or an as models for Christians. Second, the Pope, the event, and of course you try to go deeper in the matter, but put it in a positive way. Whatever can contribute to know the person.

"If he had a good friend, I try to meet him. I try to trace him. Maybe they went to university together. And from there you go to the core of a life of a person — his inspiring principles of

• We wait if there's a need for clarification. That's wisdom rather than diplomacy

action, what his beliefs were, what his motivations were, you try to draw out this portrait." Since Pius XII, the Vatican takes into account historical context, the psychology of the can-didate and the social structure of the

neighbourhood. The problems come with the pace of canonization. In the past, there could be a more leisurely discussion of candidates, their stakes would be improved or worsened according to the personal tastes of the reigning pontiff. But the Pope is acting out of a double conviction. The first is that, as the product of the Second Vatican Council, he

most travelled in history, is searching for models that have direct relevance to the country he is visiting. Put crudely, the Pope likes to take a saint in the aircraft when he travels out of Rome.

When the Pope spots a candidate, representing Christian virtue in a neglected ethnic group, he can speed it up. He is travelling to Madagascar in September next year, so the Vatican saint-makers are working on the cause of a married woman but more, a married woman that will send signals beyond the shores of Madagascar.

How, given this Pope's commitment to new canonizations, is one to spot a saint? Father Molinari speaks of a certain fire, a spirit that springs out, is immediately apparent, and indeed lasts beyond the grave. The saint-makers nbserve carefully to ensure that the adulation of a saint is not being manipulated, nor becoming the subject nf a fashionable cult.

Candidates for sainthood are presenting themselves all the time; but to accelerate the cause, say of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the murdered Solidarity priest, or Cardinal Oscar Romero of El Salvador, murdered in 1980, would be playing with political fire. They are clear cases of martyrdom, but their message is not always hierarchy. Cardinal Romero, a stalwart defender of the oppressed and a fierce critic of the Government, is regarded by many Latin American believers as the first martyr of liberation theology. Father Popieluszko was in conflict not only with Warsaw but with his primate.

The drive to canonize can serve the interests of papal diplomacy, but by the same token causes can also be held back. The Vatican saint specialist sees it differently. Father Molinari explains: "Some people will say to hurry op with a candidate, others will call for clarification. And if there is indeed need for clarification, we wait. That's wisdom rather than diplnmacy. Romero could be transformed or used for political

reasons, there may be politics involved. "But equally, there may be a more theological issue, say a priest involved with guerrillas. Here we are dealing with the question; Are the guerrillas morally lawful from a Christian point of

As we left, past the statue of Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit Order - a soldier-saint the waiting room was empty, to the naked eye at least. Not for long in this papacy: the saintmakers have a busy new year ahead, the candidates will be forming an orderly queue.

Chadli

loses

support

in poll

The poll was brought for-

mineral deposits have been

found around the Spratly Is-

lands, a strategic archipelago

Scientists from Nanhai

Oceanography Research In-

stitute found 105 billion bar-

rels of oil reserves, 25 billion

cubic metres of gas reserves

and 370,000 tonnes of phos-

phorous among the 400 is-

Arens takes office and labels PLO as leading terror group

From Richard Owes, Jerusalem

Mr Moshe Arens, the new a firebomb at a bus some-Israeli Foreign Minister, yes-terday declared that the PLO remained "the major terrorist organization in the world, and said that to talk to terrorists - an apparent ref-erence to the US dialogue with the Palestinians - only encouraged further violence.

Foreign Ministry officials yesterday condemned the meeting at the Vatican between the Pope and Mr Yassir Arafat, the PLO chairman, declaring: "Peace in the Holy Land can hardly be served by such a meeting." But on a more conciliatory note, they said that the new Israeli coalition, consisting of Likud, Labour, and the religious parties, was actively looking for a peace initiative io response to the US-PLO dialogue.

probably be peace talks among the "interested parties" in the (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes). Middle East under superpower auspices.

An opinioo poll published vesterday in the newspaper Yediot Ahronot showed that 54 per cent of Israelis favoured dialogue with the PLO following Mr Arafat's undertaking not to engage in terrorism. Diplomats said that the finding was striking in view of Arens had a reputation as a the new coalition's guidelines, hawk. Israel's peace policy is he secretly agreed with King which flatly rule out any

cootacts with the PLO. On the other hand, 44 per cent of those questioned in the poll, conducted earlier this position, which is based on the hard line pursued by Likud, to Labour — Mr Peres, Mr hard line pursued by Likud, to which both Mr Yitzhak Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Shamir, the Prime Minister, Minister, and Mr Yitzhak

and Mr Arens belong. The problem lies in definiog terrorism," one official Prime Minister. said as Mr Arens took over the

where in the (occupied) terrifully like two convicts in leg tories, most Israelis would say that was Palestinian terrorism, even if the PLO had nothing

directly to do with it." Mr Arens, in his first comments on taking over from Mr Peres, said that tracedies such as the explosion on the Pan Am jumbo jet over Scotland on Wednesday "return us to reality, in which Israel and other free countries are engaged in a campaign against

Officials said the change of tone at the Foreign Ministry was striking noting that Mr

West Beirnt — Syria, moving rapidly to challenge Mr Yassir Arafat's forces in southern Lebanon, is encouraging the formation of a new guerrilla Sources said that the most coalition to step up attacks favoured Israeli option would against Israel and discredit the PLO's peace programme

> Mr Ahmed Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, signalled Syria's intentions by amouncing the creation of a "wide united front to resist the surrenderist policy which Arafat is working on" at a rally here.

to be decided in future by an Husain in London on the inner Cabinet of six ministers, three from Likud - Mr Shamir, Mr Arens, and Mr poll, conducted earlier this David Levy, the Deputy week, backed the government Prime Minister and Minister Navon, the Minister of Education and also a Deputy

leader. "If an Arab boy throws Post put it this week - split down the middle.

"hobbling along together pain-

But yesterday, officials who have worked closely with Mr Peres maintained that the recent drama in the Middle East was over, and Israel, the Arab states, and international opinion now had a breathing space to find a way forward. Sources defined the key

events as the decision last July by King Husain of Jordan to dissociate himself from the West Bank; the PLO declaration of a Palestinian state in November, Mr Arafat's reounciation of terrorism; and the American decision to open talks with the PLO.

Western diplomats said it was still difficult to see how the new coalition could find a common policy, adding that a formula based on limited selfgovernment in the occupied territories would almost certainly be doomed to fail since it had already been rejected by Palestinian leaders.

For Mr Peres, who becomes Finance Minister, and his supporters, yesterday was above all a moment for hitter regret over missed opportu-nities. As Mr Peres bade farewell to his officials, he said there had been a chance for peace in April last year, when principle of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to take the new US Administration. part in peace talks.

The formula would have got round the problem of defining Palestinian participation, but the chance had been missed. However, Mr Peres' critics say he compounded the failure by continuing to press for an international peace conference based on his formula -Many analysts see this as a even though Mr Shamir, as Foreign Ministry from Mr recipe for deadlock, with the Prime Minister, turned it Shimon Peres, the Labour two parties - as the Jerusalem down and the Cabinet was

Arafat seeks support in a wary Rome

From Our Own Correspondent Rome

Mr Yassir Arafat, the Pal-estine Liberation Organiza-tion chairman, yesterilay skil-fully deployed meetings with the Italian Government and the Pope to seek support for the newly-declared Palestinian state.

But neither Italian nor Vatican officials were eager to commit themselves, and were careful to voice their support of Israel.

Mr Arafat's audience with the Pope is sure to anger Israeli and Jewish lobbyists, who complain that the Vatican has still not opened diplomatic relations with Jerusalem. But both the Vatican and the Italian Government, while welcoming the recent con-cessions by the PLO, are wary of being manipulated.

The Vatican would clearly find it difficult to recognize a Palestinian state as long as it has no diplomatic relationship with Israel.

Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Foreign Minister, made it clear that his priority was to open direct dialogue between Israel and the PLO. He said that "a conference held without Israel, or worse still against Israel, would not make sense". He wanted to keep dialogue open between Europe and Israel, even at the cost of delaying recognition of the Palestinian state.

Mr Arafat, who met the Italian Prime Minister, Signor Ciriaco De Mita, for the first time yesterday, wants faster progress. He views Italy as his best friend in the European Community and is trying to secure a platform of European recognition to put pressure on

This was indicated by an Arafat adviser, Mr Abdon Rabbon, who told Italian journalists: "Arafat's visit to Rome is important because Italy has the power to play a propulsive role in Europe, both towards arranging a peace conference and recognizing the Palestinian state."

The Pope, in his New Year The climate of discussion, peace message — aiready re-leased by the Vatican — spoke however, has been soured by the explosion on board the Pan out for the rights of minorities. Palestinians - it is con-Am jet which crashed in



The Pope admiring a Nativity wood carving given to him yesterday by Mr Yassir Arafat. Scotland on Wednesday. Were But he emphasized that terror- strained by the need to arrange it to emerge that Aba Nidal or ism was not justified. . similar extremist groups had been involved, then Mr Arafat Mr Arafat visited Rome only recently, on the day after would have to dissociate himthe Israeli elections, and disself more streneously, and

closed his plans for autowncing a Palestinian state to repeatedly, from acts of terrorism before there could be any Signor Andreotti. real progress on recognition of But although Italy views the developments positively - and is encouraged by the beginnings of a conversation between the US and the

Signor De Mita said yes-

terday that Italy should assume a more assertive foreign policy; Middle East developments may give Rome this opportunity.

Meanwhile, Mr Arafat having said that the Israeli secret service, Mossad, was pletting to kill him - was nied by 12 carloads of bodyguards here yesterday.

many do oot care enough to

bring their lives to a standstill.

erable compromise. They pay

lip-service to the new mood of

self-restraint. Behind this

mask, the majority of people

Department stores are cov-

ered in festive tinsel and

Jingle Bells is piped through

the loudspeakers. The number

of late-night drunks in central

Tokyo suggest that Japan's

corporate warriors, who spend

their spare time learning how

to control their whisky, are

not letting up in deference to

the Emperor. The impression

is that, for all but a small band

have resumed normal life.

They have reached a tol-

lands and reefs, the New China News Agency said.

vietnam.

Dali setback Madrid - The surrealist painter, Salvador Dali, aged 84, was back in hospital in Figueras, on Spain's Costa Brava, suffering from a bleeding stomach ulcer. Doctors described his condition as scrious. He was admitted to hospital more than a week ago

and has had treatment for heart and lung disorders.

Briton out Nairobi (Reuter) - Kenya deported a British journalist, Mary Anne Fitzgerald, who returned on huliday after being forced to leave when convicted of trying to export foreign currency. She wrote for The Independent and The

Sunday Times. Jail carnage

Mexico City (Reuter) - Two people, including a prison warden, were killed, four wounded and an unknown number held hostage in an abortive jail break at Tepic in northern Mexico.

Buried alive

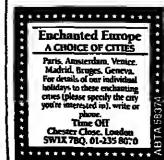
Dhaka - Three young girls making mud dolls at a building site were buried alive as construction workers accidentally dumped tonnes of rubble over them in Dhaka's northern Mirpur suhurbs.

Auditor dies

Athens (AFP) - Mr Spyros Papadatos, the auditor who exposed irregularities amounting to nearly £120 million at the Bank of Crete, died from a beart attack.

Envoy killed

Guadalajara (Reuter) - Mr Rexhai Suroi, Yugoslavia's Ambassador to Spain, was killed when his car hit a bridge in this town east of Madrid.



Christmas in the grip of the intifada - and the shadow of the Emperor

Too much room at Bethlehem's inns

From Our Own Correpondent Bethiehem

When you visit Mr Elias Freij, the Mayor of Bethlehem, it is wise to display a keffiyalı (Arab head dress) in your car in the hope that Arab boys will not throw stones through the windscreen.

According to Mr Freij, Arab support in largely Christian Bethlehem for the yearold intifada, or Palestinian uprising, is wholehearted

Others - notably Israelis - say the previously well behaved citizens of Bethlehem and nearby Beit Sahur, traditional site of the fields where the shepherds were told by angels of Christ's birth, have been coerced into support for the revolt by the intifada leadership,

which has forced shops to close. The religious ceremonies go ahead as normal, but the Romao Catholic Patriarch will arrive today to celebrate Midnight Mass in a sullen and cowed town guarded by hundreds of police and soldiers, with body searches and metal detectors on Manger Square.

The little town of Bethlehem, in other words, is being crippled by the troubled politics of Christmas and by the simple fact that it lies in the occupied West

Far from lying "in a deep and dreamless sleep as the silent stars go by", seethes with anger and frustration behind the shuttered shop fronts, while the shopkeepers and hotel owners count the cost of more than 100 days of strikes.

The scene on Manger Square itself, where the Church of the Nativity stands, is surreal. The Bethlehem Souvenir Enterprise is deserted. So are Bethlehem's 84 restaurants and cafes, normally booming at this time of year as pilgrims and tourists pour in. According to Mr Freij, the town's economy dependent on tourism, arts, crafts, and souvenirs, has lost "millions of dollars". Hundreds of Bethlehem families are descending into poverty and this month he was unable to pay the town's municipal employees.

Of the town's five main hotels, two are empty, and the other two have 30 per cent occupancy. "It is not so much a question of no room at the inn," one church official said. "More a question of there being no guests."

The intifada and the Israeli crackdown have been a disaster for a town which has little means of survival beyond the proceeds from the thousands who are drawn to Bethlehem from all over the world to enter the Church of the Nativity and descend the stone steps into the underground cave said to be the site of

Japan's stop-go revellers has been strained over the past an era. While many still care

the state by Europe.

The Japanese like to celebrate whatever is going. They have not yet taken to St Patrick's Day, but they love Christmas. This year, the Japanese are celebrating Christmas and the closing days of 1988 with the

stop-go high spirits of latenight revellers at a party. Every now and then someone turns down the music and suggests: "Shhh -- you'll wake the neighbours." The unexpected length of

Emperor Hirohito's illness the monarch, aged 87, has been bedridden with cancer sioce September - has tested the solemnity of the Japanese. who always like to do the right thing. This sense of propriety

few days, partly because pa-tience is wearing out, and partly because office workers traditionally see out the year by spending night after night getting drunk with colleagues in the local bar.

Japan Inc, that invisible force that shapes everything in the country from trade poli-cies to the width of jacket lapels, has spread the word that high jinks and highballs betray a lack of respect for the Emperor's failing health: Japan must show self-restraint.

But even the Japanese can only be on best behaviour for

so lnng. In the early days of the Emperor's illness, they be-haved impeccably and prepared gloomily for the end of straint has become a gesture.

The old smoke screen lifts to reveal a jocular Castro be strained, President Castro prefaced his remarks with a declaration

Yet, even in a rigid and closed

children of government officials. "Yes, but these little gangs as you call them are no more than a enon is to be found only in Havana." the President replied. Tour the country and you will realize that there are five million

revolution, loving it, defending it. "But I must tell you that this

television and films, nor across the 90 miles in distance from the United States. It also comes from Soviet youth (children of Soviet diplomats and military personnel based in Havana) through perestroika ... we're watching them ... a game of cat and mouse, but not to worry, this thing will not prosper."

Although at 62 he has now "lamentably" had to give up his favourite sport, basketball, he continnes to keep lit by swimming in a pool "after midnight" and by spear fishing. Why, 30 years after the triumpl

of the revolution, does he not wear civilian clothes but continue to don a military uniform? "I am the commander of Cuba's armed forces, so it's my natural uniform," he said. Roaring with laughter he contin-ued: "But can you really imagine me being concerned about the latest style in lapels, shoulder pads, the cut of the pants."

Did he fear death? "Definitely not. I've always been very close to her," the Cuhan leader replied.



struggie" to stop smoking.

From Geoffrey Matthews

Bogota Winston Churchill, Ernest Hemingway and Groncho Marx were among its most illustrious aficio-nados, but it was a Marxist of 2 more ideological bent who made it

his personal trade mark. Even so, President Castro will not be lighting up this Christmas. Nor will the Cuhan leader welcome in the new year puffing on one of his country's famous Habanes, once considered the best in the world and sought by multi-national tycoons and Hollywood producers.

"Yes, I've quit completely," he told the Colombia Weekly magazine Cromos. This was not exactly news, since reports have been circulating for more than three years that he had given up smoking. What was new was his admission that it had required a truly heroic revolutionary struggle, though he denied that it had been provoked by a diagnosis of cancer. "They're always inventing things about me," he said. "But I have to confess it was difficult to give up ... worse, I still have nightmares in which I dream I am smoking and enjoying it. Then I have a kind of intimate shame because I feel I am betraying my own conscience."

He continued: "I cannot preach about the dangers of cancer, I cannot support the campaign against tobacco with a cigar in my lips or even in my hands. It would be disrespectful to the people ...

Did he often have nightmares, asked Nohra Parra of Cromos, interviewing him in Havana. "Yes, and they're terrible, terrible! I dream about guns, about the (revolutionary) war and when I wake up I give thanks to to God for having a country at peace. Yes, to God. Why not? I have a special God as special as yours."

Havana Government to visit Cuba and interview its leader three decades after the revolution which brought him to power. In the interview he expressed

misgivings about President Gorbachov's drive for Soviet economic and political reform. Insisting that he was not against

glasnost and perestroika, he told the visiting journalists: "We're making our own changes here, our own selfcriticism, but in our own style, based on our own needs. And I want to make one thing very clear: any political and economic change I make will never be based on the capitalist system but will be taken within a socialist regimen. "I much admire Gorbachov and I

Seviet Union and Cuba are said to

am in permanent contact with him, but I do think that he has some political advisers who are enrap-President Castro was in good tured with capitalism, and if they form, demonstrating considerable jocalar charm, reports Nohra continue as they are, they could do great damage to the Soviet people. I Parra, who was among a group of Latin American journalists who accepted an invitation by the inst hope I'm wrong." Although relations between the

of continuing loyalty to Moscow: "I'm tired of saying it, but my gratitude to the Soviet Union will be eternal because without its help we would never have been able to nush abead."

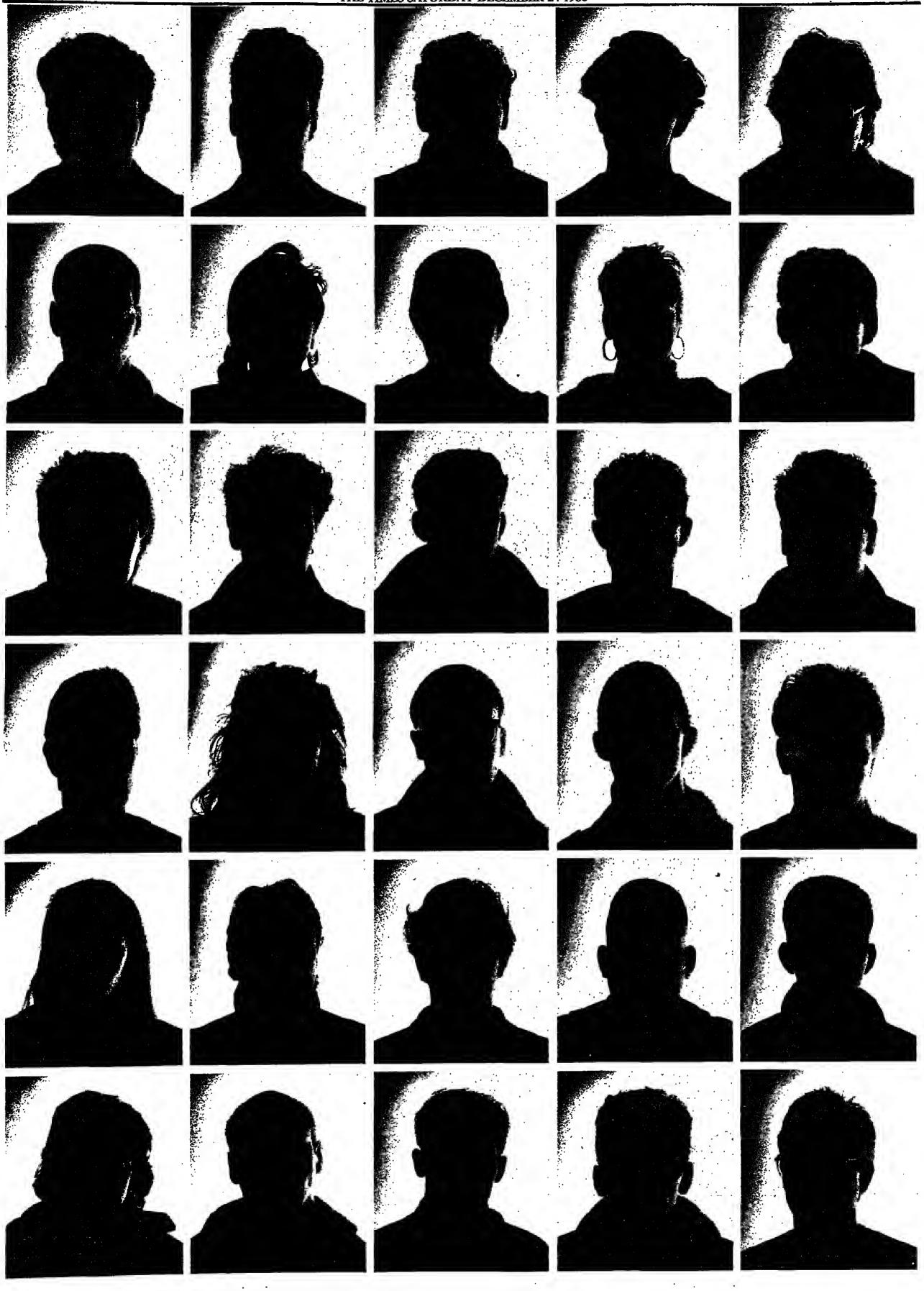
regime built around a personality cult which has been compared to Stalinism, outside influences cannot be held at bay, the visiting journalist noted from the presence of groups of "punks" roaming the streets of Havana and the taste for rock music among the teenage

hundred in all, and the phenomyoung people who are building the

influence reaches us not only by



FOR THIS MANY PEOPLE WITH AIDS.



THIS MANY PEOPLE HAVE THE VIRUS.

The virus which leads to AIDS is known as the Human Immunodeficiency Virus.

Or HIV.

Someone may have HIV for years before they, or anyone else, realise it.

During this time they can look and feel perfectly healthy. But, through sexual intercourse, they could pass on the virus to other people. (Who, in turn, can infect more people.)

It is estimated that for every person with AIDS there are thirty with HIV.

Obviously the more sexual partners you have the more chance you have of becoming infected.

But the answer doesn't just mean fewer partners.

It also means using a condom, or even having sex that avoids penetration.

The number of people with HIV is increasing. But your chance of getting it doesn't have to be.



DIARY

SIMON BARNES

his is not a usual Saturday. Look, Holmes-like, at the curious incident of the football fixtures. There are no football fixtures - well, hardly any. Not just pro and semi-pro; even the Woking and District League is idle. But they are made of sterner stuff in the Danair Combined Counties League, and today Station Road, Chobham, Surrey, is the site of this column's match of the season as Chobham take on Westfield in the Clash of

The sides occupy the bottom two places in the league. Chohham have nought points, having played 16, lost 16, scored four goals and conceded 52. But Westfield, since this column expressed an interest and observed the state of feetball been them the Eddie Edwards of football, have been stung into life and put together a three-match unbeaten run that ended last Saturday when they were beaten by Cobham (as opposed to Chobham) 3-1.

Was this all the effect on morale of a barbed word processor? Well, no. For Westfield have joined the semi-pro ranks and are now paying two of their players. Paul Hampshire, formerly of Aldershot Youth and Godalming Town, has earned his money by scoring six in six games, and Sean Proby, signed from Chertsey Town, also gets paid. "It's against our principles," said Dick Hill, their secretary. "But we had to do something to avoid relegation. We have to put up with this for the sake of the youngeters at the chil." Westfield have joined the semi-pro ranks youngsters at the club."

Chobham, having no paid players, must rely on their home advantage and the support of the crowd – which they bope will be up to 150, instead of their usual dozen – to stir them to their first point, or even points, of the season. This column wishes oys of all seasons to both clubs.

ce hockey is, of course, a game of skill and tactics, and that is why people go to watch it. Well, that's what its officials would have us believe, continually embar-rassed as they are by the oldest joke in sport: "I went to a fight last night, and a hockey game broke out.

who is going to die.

keep them away.

there wasn't much hope.

That afternoon I drove off to look for holly. When you live in

the country you spend your

whole time in the car. In

London, of course, you simply buy holly round the corner,

which is much better for the

environment. I spent two hours

burning up valuable fossil fuels,

the children squabbling over their crisps in the back seat, and

only returned with six sprigs,

most of whose berries had fallen

off by the time we had bung

This was our first Christmas in

the country, the first of our new

pure life, and I was trying to work up a festive spirit unaided by the

crass high-street commercialism

that Edwin was so relieved to

gets, and how soon, in the country? When I returned home

our wood was simply a denser

clot against the sodium glow of

our local town, the one whose

traffie was going to be eased at our expense. This time next Christmas, I thought, the thun-

dering pantechnicons will be

rattling our window panes and filling our rooms with lead

pollution. It will be just like

Camden Town all over again,

has actually read The Faerie

Queene. He has a spare, linear

mind and fine features; nobody would ever, ever think of calling

him Ed. When we lived in

London, in Camden Town, he

taught graphics. But then his art school was dissolved into another one and he lost his job.

The government was brutish and

philistine and London was full of

fumes, so he said we should move to the country and I

fallowed in the hot slipstream of

"Look at the roses growing in our children's checks!" he cried nut, startling me, soon after we

It was all right for him. He had people to talk to. He became a

carpenter and he worked with

three men, all of them bearded.

They toiled in a barn, looking

like an illustration in my old

Golden Book of Bible Stories, while Fats Waller played on their cassette recorder. They made

very expensive and uncomfort-

able wooden furniture. It was

Shaker-style, like the furniture in

Witness, which I had already

rented three times from our

visiting video van because all its

other films were Kung Fu. The

van came on Wednesdays and its

driver, an ex-pig-farmer with a

withered arm, was sometimes the only adult I spoke to all day.

unless someone came to buy our

eggs, which was hardly ever. I talked to the hens, of course,

and to the children. I had also become a secret addict of Neigh-

bours, which ended just before

Edwin arrived home each day,

hat's what I missed,

you see. Edwio didn't because he

He's the only peson I

have ever met who

but without the conversation.

Have you noticed how dark it

escape. Me too, of course.

them up.

But the public do go for the skill, don't they? And they are sickened by the incidental violence? Well, maybe not. If you cast an eye through the United States organ of the sport, The Hockey News, you will find video ads for "Hockey's Bloodiest Fights and Knockouts" or, better still, an ad for "165 hours of good quality hockey fights which includes 12 hours from '87-'88". Another ad offers 126 hours of fights,

including two hours starring New York
Rangers' classic "goon", Chris Nilan.

All of this coincides with a seasoo that has
begun with a degree of violence remarkable
even by the standards of America's National Hockey League — so much so that Lloyd's of London, which underwrites the players' disability insurance, has been getting worried. There was a problem when the policy came up for renewal in 1986, and it fears there will be more trouble the next time around in 1990.

Penalties for violence have risen by more than 90 per cent over the past 10 years. It is not a question of spontaneity: "When you have somebody on your team whose soke purpose is to punch somebody's lights out, it's a tactic," said one team manager. "It has become a bit of a problem."

n a more sedate plane, I can report that the latest Wisden is oow available - that for 1883. It is part of a series of reprints well known in this space and contains a fascinating nugget on the highest score ever recorded in a match in England, when the Orleans Clob scored 920 against Rickling Green. G.F. Vernon made 259 and A.H. Trevor 338 as they put on an intimidating 605 for the second wicket. Another player narrowly missed his triple century, but he was a bowler, he took three wickets for 291. Tewin Irregulars have long believed in the tactic of buying wickets, but tactics are for use, oot over-use.



t comes as something of a disappoint ment to me to realize that sex cannot sell everything. Almost everything, yes, but not six-day cycle racing. Six-day cycle racing used to be rather a big deal, drawing crowds of up to 100,000. Now this bizarre sport, numbing minds and backsides of players and spectators alike, is in decline. Across Europe, promoters have brought in things like food, music, stuntmen and circus acts and still the crowds fall.

And so, at Maastricht, Munich, Bremen and Dortmund, they have tried the added lure of strippers. So far as gate receipts are concerned, the ladies have attracted a tidal wave of indifference. A former world champion, Patrick Sercu, said: "Striptease will not save six-day cycling. There are better places in town for that."

Meanwhile, a bicycle is the perfect Christmas present for any 7ft person who has everything else. Craig Mauck, of AAA Rearview Bicycle Repair, is contacting all 25 of America's National Basketball Associatioo teams, offering to make bikes for any of its giants. He is already fulfilling a commission for Ralph Sampson, of Golden State Warriors, who stands 7ft 4in.

ereford United football club has sent a Christmas card to Margaret Thatcher and Colin Moynihan, Minister of Sport. It depicts Santa Claus proffering a fiver at a turnstile and being asked in return for his identity card. He replies: "But I only come once a year." And only then if you've been good all year.

A short story by Deborah Moggach

How I learnt to be a real countrywoman

in the kitchen, eards. There was one Paul, whoever they were, and one from our bank manager, and one from my Aunty May which had been recycled from the year before. The last one was a brown envelope. Edwin opened it.
"My God!" be said. "These
bureaucrats have a piquant sense of timing." He tugged at his beard — a newly acquired mannerism. Since we had moved to the country he'd grown a beard; it made him look slightly like Jeremy Irons. Slightly. The letter was from our county council, and it said they were going to build a ring road right through our local wood. Now, our local wood wasn't up to much but it was all we had. It was more a copse, really, across the field from our cottage. Like everything in the country it was surrounded by barbed wire, but I could worm my way through with the children, and amid acres of ploughed fields it was at least somewhere to go, and from which we could then proceed home again. Such places are necessary, with small child-ren (eight, six and three). It was mostly brambles, and trees I couldn't name because I had always lived in London, and there was a small, black pond which smelt like damp laundry. Not a lot grew in the wood, except Diet Pepsi cans. But I loved it, and now I knew it was condemned I appreciated its tangled rustlings, just as one listens more intently to a person "A two-lane dual carriage-way!" said Edwin. "Right past our froot door. Thundering pantechnicons!" That exploded from him like an oath. He went off to work, and every time the children broke something that morning, which was often, we cried Thundering pantechnicons!" But that wasn't going to We live in a pretty, but not pretty enough to be protected, part of Somerset People were going to campaign against this ring road, but the only alternative route was through our MP's daughter's riding school, so

> though he probably heard its soapy theme tune as he took off his bicycle clips. I never dreamed I would work out who all the characters were, they all looked the same, pan-sticked under the arc lights with their streaky perms, but to my shame I did. and worse, I minded. I even hammed its tune when I was standing at the sink, digging all the slugs out of our organic vegetables.

> Perhaps, I thought, if I joined this anti-road campaign I could meet intelligent men like Jonathon Perritt. Perhaps they didn't all live in NW1.

> Most of them seemed to; that was the trouble. I missed Camden Town, where everybody worked in the media. At the children's primary school, where they had cutbacks, parents donated scrap paper, and they were always things like transcripts of South Bank Shows. I used to read them, on the other side of the children's drawings, so I could surprise Edwin when we were watching TV and I knew what Leonard Bernstein was going to say. Then there was the time when I could tell him who did it in a Ruth Rendell book, because I had found the last page

> in our local photocopier.
>
> Edwin thought all this was febrile, but Edwin had inner resources. I only had the children. You can't have both. And then, on Boxing Day, I had a brainwave.

It was freezing outside and the cat had had an accident in front of the Aga. Well, not an accident; she just hadn't bothered to go outside. Edwin was clearing it up with some newspaper when he stopped, and read a corner.

"Listen to this," he said.
"Leicester County Council is spending £19,000 on four underpasses, specially constructed for

At the time I wasn't listening. I was throwing old roast potatoes into the hen bucket and working out how long it was since Edwin and I had made love. "11's to save a colony of

Golden Crested Newts," he said. We hadn't even on Christmas night, after some wonderful Australian Cabernet Sauvignon. The last time was Thursday week, when we had been agreeing how awful his mother was. This always drew us close. We had one or two such mild, but reliable, approdisiacs. Usually, however, our feet were too cold, or one of the children suddenly woke up, or we had just been reading something depressing

about the disappearing rain forests.

Then I thought about the campaign, and as he started washing the floor I caught up with what he had said about the newts. It was such a simple idea, so breathtakingly simple, that my

legs felt boneless and I had to sit I didn't know much about

natural history wheo all this

happened, last Christmas. I was brought up in Swiss Cottage and spent my childhood with my nose pressed against shop windows, first toys then bikes theo clothes. If a bird was brown and boring I presumed it was a sparrow. Frogs were simply pearshaped diagrams of reproductive organs which we sniggered at, during school, fearfully.

hen Edwin and I married and we went to live in Camden Town. Its streets were bedimmed with sulphurie emissions and we could only recognize the changing seasons by the daffodil frieze at Sketchleys (Spring) and the Back-to-Skool promotion at Rymans (Au-tumn). Edwin, waking op to a dawn chorus of activated car alarms, hungered for bonest country toil and started buying books, published by Faber and illustrated by woodcuts, which told him how to clamp his beetroots and flay his ox.

A romantic puritan, he gazed across at the whores' drawers curtains of the people opposite and bemoaned the greed of our decade, saying quite accurately that even intellectuals were starting to talk about house prices. We lived in a flat, and my contact with nature was 10 grow basil, the Seventies herb, and coriander, the Eighties one, on our balcony, digging them in with a dining fork. I bought them at Clifton Nurseries, London's most metropolitao garden centre, where I liked spotting TV personalities pushing Burnham Woods of designer foliage in their trolleys to the checkout. So I came to the country green,

as it were. And after a year of organic gardening all I had learnt was bow to drive into Taunton. buy most of the stuff at Marks and Spencers and then pretend it was ours. It's so tiring, being organic. Being married for that matter. The day after Boxing Day I

walked across to the wood, alone. It was a still, grey morning and without its foliage the place looked thin and vulnerable; I could see right through it. Within its brambles was now revealed the archaeological remains of countless trysts, date-expired litter from expired dates. But now I knew what I was soing to do, I felt possessive. I didn't own the wood, of course - it belonged to our local farmer, Mr Hodgkins, and he wanted the ring road because it meant he could retire to Portugal.

I took out my rubbish bags and set to work. It's amazing how much you can do when you doo't have three children with you. In an hour I had tut-tutted my way through the place, filled three black bags, and scratched my hands.

That evening I didn't watch TV. I looked through Edwin's library instead. He was in his potting shed, running off campaign leaflets on his printing press. Nursing my burning hands, I leafed through his Complete British Wild Flowers. I had oo idea there were so many plants, and with such names -Sneezewort and Dodder, Purging Buckthorn and Bitter Fleabane, Maids Bonnets and Biting Stonecrop (or Welcome-homehusband-though-never-sodrunk). Poetic and unfamiliar, they danced in my head as I gazed at the eternally blooming watercolours. The book divided them into habitats, which helped. I took note of the "Woodland" section, writing down the names of the most

endangered species. I hadn't learnt so much since school. When Edwin returned he was surprised I was missing Minder.

So was L "I want to learn more about the countryside," I said.

He was terribly pleased. We started talking about his youth in Dorset, where his father was a vicar and he a pale, only child. We talked about the years before graphic department politics, and children, and trying to find people

rich enough to buy his tables.
"I wanted to be Edward Lear," he said. "I wanted to explore the world and find everything curious."
"Wasn't he lonely?"
He nodded. "But what an

artist." He paused, tugging his beard. "Everybody has a time when they should have hived." "When's yours?"
"1890."

Think about how much it would have hurt at the dentist's."

laughed. "When's yours?" "Now." That night, despite our cold feet, we made love day. He even licked my ears, something I had forgotten I adored. He used to do it quite a lot, in London. Afterwards he said: "I've been

corried about you, Ruth. Have I been bossy?" I shook my head: "I'm liking it

Mabel Cudlipp had newts. She was a fellow mother. I had seen her at the school gates for a year now, but we had never really talked. To tell the truth, I thought the mothers here looked boring compared with the London ones, whn arrived at school breathing wine furnes from Groucho lunches. But when the spring term began I started chatting, and it turned out Mabel Cudlipp had some in

Great Crested Newts," she said. "They're very rare. In fact, they've been protected since 1981."

"You couldn't possibly spare one or two?" She nodded. "They're hibernating now, but we can look

when it gets warmer." So then she introduced herself. and so did I, and she even brought ber daughter back for tea.

You might wonder why I didn't tell Edwin. The trouble was: his honesty. Once, he found a £5 note in Oxford Circus and took it to the police. Nobody claimed it, of course, because nobody thought anyone could be

that decent. Another time he drove 22 miles in freezing log to pay somebody back when I had overcharged them for eggs. But that was when we were quarrelling, so you could call it marital

Nor did I involve the children for the same reason. Throughout the spring. I worked away during school hours, accompanied only by Abbie, who is three and who couldn't sneak on me. She carried the trower on our daily trips to the wood, which I now considered ours, its every clump of couch grass dear to me. When boxes arrived from obscure plant nurseries I told Edwio that I was really getting to grips with the course. While he battled against the bureaucrats - the Stop the Road campaign wasn't getting anywhere - I glowed, my cheeks grew roses, my fingernails were full of mud. I felt as heavy as a fruit with my secret; I hadn't felt so happy since I was pregnant.

was also becoming something of an expert. For instance, oo polamogeton densus and reccia flutans. Latin names to you, hut essential aquatic oxygenators to me. I bought them at my local garden centre, which had an Ornamental Pood section. and carried them to the wood in plastie bags. I had dug out the pond, and turfed its sides.

Then there was triturus cristatus, or perhaps cristati because there were four of them, courtesy of Mabel. Perhaps you don't know what this is. It is the Great Crested Newl. The male has a silver streak on the tail, and at breeding time develops a high, crinkled crest and a bright orange belly. The female, with-out crest but with skin flap above and below the tail, is 16.5cm long overall, slightly longer than the male. I was feeling slightly longer than the male; more vigorous and powerful.

For good measure, and why not, Abbie and I planted some surprising plants in the wood too, garden plants, and some blue Himalayan Poppies. I had to use my Barclaycard for most of this, the whole operation was costing a fortune. And then there was my coup de grace, the orchids. We planted the Lady's Slipper (cypripedium calceolus), the Lizard, and the Bird's Nest (neottia nidusavis), all extremely rare, and purchased from a small oursery in Suffolk whose address I had found io the back of Amateur Gardener. 1 cut off all the labels, of course, I'm oot a complete fool, I even west to university once. I planted them tenderly in the patches I had cleared amongst the brambles. Above us the birds sang, and the watery spring sunshine gleamed on the ivy which, lush as leather, trousered the trees. I even knew

In all those weeks Edwin never visited the wood. He never had time. Io the country people never have time to do things like that, unless someone comes to hunch. It's like living in London and never visiting the Tate Gallery until some American friends arrive. Edwin was busy doing all the things that people who live in the country really do, like driving 20 miles to collect the repaired lawnmower, and then doing it all over again because the lawnmower still didn't work. Like driving 30 miles to find some matching tiles for our roof, and discovering that the place had been turned

the trees' names now.

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is because our wood has been designated a site of outstanding scientific interest. They've put up a proper wooden fence, and a sign. They're even thinking of building a car park. And instead of thundering pantechnicons we've now got thundering Re-naults full of newt-watchers.

It's Boxing Day today and people have come from all over, it's been really interesting. They knock on our door, and ask the way, and admire our cottage botanists io particular are very polite. We're doing a brisk trade in eggs, too. Ours are guaranteed salmonella-free because the bens are fed on my organic bread, which is so disgusting we're always throwing it away. Sometimes the people even leave their children here, to play with mine. while they tramp across the field to look at the orchids. Danny, that's my eldest, has even started saying things like "mega-crucial". Now we have our own traffic jams I don't miss Camden Town at all.

What Edwin feels about this is best described as mixed. Still, his furniture business is booming because it's only two miles away and even he is materialistic enough to put up a notice, with a sepia photograph and a map. pointing them in the right direction. And so much has happened during the day that we don't have to talk about his mother

any more.
When spring comes, and the flowers start blooming. I've decided to start doing teas. I'll buy Old-Style Spiced Buns at Marks and Sparks and throw away the

I've learnt a lot this past year. you see, about the real country way of doing things.



Deborah Moggach has published eight novels, including the acclaimed Porky and her latest, Driving in the Dark. A book of short stories, Smile and Other Stories, has just been published by Penguin, and she has recently completed a television serial, Stolen, about kidnapped children. She lives in Camden, London into a Bejams. So he never knew.

They didn't build the ring road past us; they're building it through the riding stables. This

I Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

GIFT FROM THE PAST

The persistence of Christmas is one of those mysteries that ought not to be probed too coldly. It is a massive collective celebration, one enormous universal birthday party at which it is everyone's birthday at once.

It is an excuse for sentimeotality and personal indulgence, for mutual generosity and general good will. It reverses most of the dour priorities which govern the rest of the year, focusing on the joys of childhood, on the gatheriog of happy families, on cheerfully candle-lit churches and the familiar words and tunes of simple carols.

None of this could be invented by Act of Parliament, and no Cabinet committee decides whether we will have another Christmas this year or not. For it has all the momentum of a people's festival — vulgar, unstoppable, tra-ditional, profane, and wonderful.

To explain it prosaically we would need to know a thousand times more about human nature than we do. But let us be thankful we do not: it is better to take it at face value, as a unique, innocent and mysterious gift from our own past to make the present more bearable.

Yet at its heart is a myth. Myths and legends have their power because they resonate in deep human experience, which they express and enlarge. A myth, for that purpose, does not have to be true, but nor does it have to be mere invention.

The Christmas myth tells of pregnant young Mary and her stalwart husband Joseph being compelled by law to go to Bethlehem, and finding nowhere there to stay; and of their taking refuge in an out-house, where Mary was safely delivered of her child. It is so simple. Something like it must have happened, for it happens every day.

It is about the vulnerability of life and the precariousness of human arrangements, and of ordinary people overcoming them - making space for themselves and for new humanity, so to speak, in spite of all the difficulties. In insisting on its universal significance the

Christian faith is almost stating the obvious. But it does not start or end there, for this birth had a deeper meaning. The myth also tells how mankind had been living under a primeval curse and sentence, and how the Christ-Child was sent from God to rescue it and lead it to deliverance as Moses had led the Israelites. The story moves inexorably from Christmas to Good Friday and then to Easter, travelling on parallel lines to many an ordinary human life and hence a source of courage and inspiration to anyone who knows it.

Even to describe it in such a way, however, is to treat it as someone else's myth, the stuff of fairy-tales, whereas it is the common property of Western civilization, our own: it lies at its very foundation. Christmas is a return to those roots, a reminder that for all its technological arrogance life in the modern world still rests on such pillars as these, which are indeed quite solid, mythical or not.

There was a time when every detail of the story - the Fall in Genesis, the Nativity in Luke, even John's Apocalypse - were accepted without question as a precise and accurate record. The scholars and theologians, sceptical or faithful, are now agreed that such a literal reading is not justified or demanded; but the power of the story never did rest on such assumptions - nor ever needed them.

In the mediaeval mystery plays it was perfectly acceptable to invent whole new episodes in order to freshen or decorate the basic narrative, and no one protested that they were not in the canon. They understood myth better: it is the modern literal mind that condemns the ancient myth as inaccurate, and which talks of a necessary suspension of disbelief in order to approach it properly. But Christmas is not an intellectual exercise; it is an experience of the mind, heart and soul: it calls for the suspension not of disbelief but of narrowness and reserve.

In a world where life can be ruined or destroyed in a tragic instant - the Armenian earthquake and the Lockerbie air disaster are only the most recent awful examples -Christmas is no cruel mockery, but a challenge. It sees human suffering not as the point of departure for despair, but as an opportunity for people to make room for humanity in spite of it. Thus have the Soviet people and world responded to the Armenian disaster; with quiet strength the little Scottish town begins to rebuild itself. Christmas is about optimism, and about faith in the race's capacity to rise above itself. Its annual celebration is a moral and spiritual tonic; and a civilization which had lost the taste for it would be a bleak one

O LITTLE TOWN

There will be little joy in Bethlehem this Christmas. The town which should symbolize peace and good will is riven by political discord and civil warfare. The lights are out, the shops are shut and road blocks and metal detectors stand between the Christian pilgrims and their

Bethlehem has long been accustomed to division. The Russian Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Armenian churches who all worship at the Church of the Nativity cannot even agree on the proper date for Christmas. This part of the world so rich in Christian meaning has, in addition, become a battle arena for Arabs and Jews.

That fighting now involves the intifada, the Arab uprising which started 12 months ago and still shows little sign of being quelled. It is out of respect, so they say, for more than 330 Palestinians who have so far died in it, that Bethlehem's Arab inhabitants have darkened this year's Christmas celebrations.

But this month has brought hope as well as gloom to the West Bank. Ten days ago Mr Yassir Arafat renounced terrorism and recognized Israel, thereby fulfilling the United States' most basic conditions for dialogue with his Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). One might not believe that the PLO means what it says, but even the fact that such a fissiparous organizatioo can say it is significaot. The swift and positive response which came from Washington opens a new page in Levantine history.

What comes to be written on that page is another matter. Mr Arafat's change of tune was not achieved without some discord in his band. His efforts must soon start to show results, or his statesmanship could herald his own destruction. While the US response was timely and constructive, it will not long satisfy Mr Arafat's hardline PLO critics. The rush of diplomatic and rhetorical activity in the last fortnight still leaves one question above all others: can Mr Arafat deliver the entire PLO he claims to lead, in obedience to the decisions and new direction of the leadership?

British intervention, in the form of Mr William Waldegrave's visit to Tunis and Jerusalem next month, will help to sustain the momentum towards answering this question until Mr George Bush enters the White House. But the push towards peace must effectively

come from Washington. How effective that will be is a matter for speculation. Since Mr Arafat's speech to the UN, the Israelis have at last formed a new

Government. While the new coalition contains the Labour Party, the balance of power hes with the right-wing Likud. With Mr Yitzhak Shamir as Prime Minister and his close political ally, Mr Moshe Arens, in charge of foreign affairs, it is hard to see much scope for future flexibility.

The new policy guidelines emerging from Jerusalem represent no great novelty. The path which Mr Shamir is willing to tread remains that mapped out at Camp David a decade ago. He will countenance no more than a degree of local autonomy for the occupied territories, negotiated not with the PLO but with Israel's Arab neighbours and moderate Arab representatives from the West Bank and Gaza.

This is less than realistic. It fails, in the first place, to take account of the pressures on Israel's moderate Arab neighbours — and on those who, on the West Bank, have bravely shown their heads above the parapet as peacebrokers. It is also doubtful if the inhabitants of the territories, after more than a year of lethal scrapping with the Israeli Army, will be satisfied with the autonomy that Mr Shamir envisages.

There is still, however, a glimmer of light this Christmas. For one thing, even Mr Shamir perceived the need for Israel to respond to Mr Arafat's initiatives. While that response was uncompromising and dismissive, one could not realistically have expected anything else. He was establishing his Government's position at the start of a period during which it will face unprecedented pressure to yield ground. There are doubts about the effectiveness of US pressure. But the Israeli economy puts Jerusalem in a poor condition to resist.

Moreover, Israeli policy should be consistent. During the last two years of the recent national Government, Mr Peres pursued a foreign policy of his own, which was largely at odds with that of his own prime minister. However much the West might have welcomed his more flexible approach, the only result was internal mistrust and incoherence.

In fact, Mr Shamir, although no innovator, is not beyond beating time to someone else's tune, especially to a variation by someone whom he trusts, like Mr Arens. If he does, he knows that the Cabinet will move with him. This may not sound much like good cheer for Bethlehem. But at this time of year, it is some comfort that hope has some chance of contesting the ring with the old familiarities of cynicism.

Art appreciation

From Mr Richard Kingzett Sir. In 1937 the Stadusche Museum, Elberfeld, sold Picasso's 'Acrobat and Young Harlequin', which had been given to them 20 years earlier. They sold the picture at the instigation of the Nazis, who regarded it as an example of entariete Kunst - degenerate art and it then realised the Swiss franc equivalent of £3,800.

Last month in London the picture sold for £20,900,000 (report, November 29). Each generation sees pictures through different eyes from its predecessors, and I wonder if the Government plan to allow museums to sell off unwanted art is wise in suggesting that our own museums should follow National Socialist policy and sell from their collections pictures that may seem uninteresting or irrelevant at this particular

When, in 1930, the Herzog interest, I am only too willing to

Anion Ulrich Museum in Brunswick needed money to repair its building, it was proposed that it should sell Vermeer's "Lady with a Wine Glass" to finance the operation. This suggestion raised such an outcry from colleagues in other German museums that the idea was dropped, the money was found by other means, and today the Vermeer remains as one of the special treasures of that marvellous collection.

I hope that English museums and cathedrals will follow Brunswick's example in this matter, rather than that of the Nazis. Yours faithfully,

RICHARD KINGZETT. Thos. Agnew & Sons Ltd., 43 Old Bond Street, W1.

Charity co-ordination From Mr F. J. E. Hurst Sir, If only out of enlightened selfcontribute to an appeal for funds to help to conquer cancer, and indeed do so. But by now I am confused about the number of organizations involved in raising such funds

Appeals are brought to our attention through the post, in press advertisements, and through references on the radio and television. Genuine collectors for different appeals have been known to operate more or less at the same time even on this road.

Which appeal should I and my family support? Is there any reason why the various organizations involved should not merge, or agree to share their resources and so economise on administrative costs, making life easier for contributors like myself? Yours faithfully,

JOHN HURST, Hillside, 72 Ballywillan Road, Portrush, Co. Antrim. December 15.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How to discourage the credit boom Defence of family welfare system

Sir, I have been put on the spot by

my colleagues to suggest an alternative to the concept, which I believe to be rather naive, that raising interest base rates from 10 to 11, 12 or even 13 per cent curbs spending by consumers already prepared to borrow at interest rates exceeding 30 or even 40 per cent to buy a new fridge or whatever else on HP.

From Mr Hugo Kirby

As in any case of supply and demand, if controlling demand does not work, one is forced to look at controlling the supply.

Would not making it illegal to lend money at an annual percentage rate of twice (or even thrice)
the base rates not only have a
popularist appeal (curbing usury)
but also discourage exactly that
sort of credit which is encouraging
those who cannot afford it to fuel
the spending boom.

Popular and effective—irresistible! Yours faithfully, HUGO KIRBY (Managing Director), The Astley Group plc, 2nd Floor, Harbour Yard, Chelsea Harbour, SW10.

From Miss Françoise Poulain Sir, I recently applied to a local building society for a cheque guarantee card. Though I have some £500 residing with this building society I was refused a card, I quote, "because you are just 18, you have no existing credit or store cards, and are not an owner-occupier.

1 am 18 and though I now live at home, on a temporary basis, I have supported myself since leaving school slightly before my sixteenth birthday. My bank allowed me a cheque card at 16

when I opened the account. Would the building society consider me more credit-worthy if I had amassed thousands of pounds' worth of plastic debt that could not repay? Yours sincerely, FRANÇOISE POULAIN, Brocklehurst,

York Crescent Aldershot, Hampshire, December 14.

From Mr J. K. McA. Tod Sir, Mr John Perry (December 12) is quite correct that credit issue in excess of goods and services available for purchase is the direct cause of inflation. But banks and other financial houses which issue this credit have no direct responsibility for limiting the credit issue to match the goods available. Their job is simply to make their business pay.

For Government to undertake control of the credit issue exposes their operations to too much political pressure, particularly near election time since the results Of inflationary operations may not

Channel tunnel delay Flooding on the Fen

From Mr K. W. Groves Sir, Your report (December 14) that the Channel tunnel is now six months behind schedule, before the boring of the undersea rail tunnels and the real problems have begun, should cause great concern. It will not surprise those who are familiar with the difficulties of bored tunnelling. Honshu-Hokaido in Japan, recently completed, which is the only tunnel of comparable length, was 10 years late and three times budget. It is therefore naive for analysts to report that "the delay can be made up". They cannot

I suggest that it is highly unlikely that this project will be completed with private finance and yet this was the precondition of Government support. One would therefore hope that alternative strategies are being devel-oped in the Department of Transport for implementation if construction delays exhaust pri-

vate funding. There are a variety of choices. What is not tenable is the current policy that the British Government will "walk away" from the scheme if it fails. Others won't.

Yours faithfully, K. W. GROVES, Park Cottage, 3 Park Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent. December 15.

Status of Eritrea

From the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Ethiopia Sir, Despite our efforts to put across our principled and unambiguous stand on the issue (the problem in northern Ethiopia) some sectors of the media, including your newspaper, seem determined to ignore them. Your icading article of December 3 is a case in point.

The whole message of the article seems to revolve around the misguided idea that Eritrea has been "forcibly annexed", and therefore the United Nations should intervene. The UN played its role when it was needed. The situation now is totally different. The conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia is an internal matter of a sovereign state, which is absolutely clear to the UN and the Organisation of African Unity.

The Eritrean people, through their democratically elected members of the then assembly, realized their right to self-determination when they opted to abolish the federal status for a complete remion with their Motherland in

Unity was not actually effected at the stroke of a pen. It rather took an evolutionary process of four years for Eritrean members of

a non-political body to be respon-sible for the credit issue.

Many would say that this would be impossible for so sensitive a task but in fact this nation is particularly good at responsible non-party public bodies. A more potent objection would be the reluctance of any sovereign Government to hand over such a potent power. Yours faithfully

J. K. McA. TOD (Member, Economic Research Council). Thorn, Butts Lawn, Brockenhurst, Hampshire.

December 15.

From Mr Christopher Godley Sir, One must differentiate between genuine debt and planned payment. Using a credit card for routine purchases, in order to make a single payment at the end of each month (as most people must surely be encouraged to do, by the penal rates of interest) does not constitute debt, any more than settling an electricity bill at the end of each quarter.

Genuine indebtedness should surely only include those accounts which remain outstanding beyond the normal payment date and hence start attracting interest. I would be interested to know if recent figures make allowances for these two factors. Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER GODLEY.

Four Firs, Marley Lane, December 19.

From Mr A. A. Bentley Sir, During recent times there has been much discussion about the use, and misuse of credit cards, and separately, the value of edu-

A combination of the two occurred recently in one of my Alevel physics lessons.

We were discussing the properties of ultra-violet light, after which we had a practical demonstration. Assorted objects were placed in the light, some of which

One student placed his Barclay-card in the light, and to our surprise a copy of the Visa dove appeared in the middle of the card, covering about a third of its area. After further discussion we decided that this was an anti-forgery device, and not as one student suggested "a CND mole in the Visa system".

This did prompt me to think, though this may not be the CND dove of peace, it might be the Visa dove of peace-of-mind. Yours faithfully,

A. A. BENTLEY, 74 Gotch Road, Kettering, Northamptonshire.

From Mr John Bleek Sir, Dr H. E. Mason (November 25) foresees a major disaster as a result of the proposed new Westmere settlement near Wilburton, Cambridgeshire, being inundated by flood waters. In particular she is concerned by the increased flood risk represented by rising sea levels resulting from the "greenhouse effect".

As consulting engineers for the settlement, may we assure Dr Mason and your readers that a properly engineered flood-protection embankment will be con-structed on its south, east and west sides. The northern part will be constructed on higher land and the boundary will not require such protection.

Design standards for the embankment, agreed with Anglian Water Authority, will ensure that Westmere's flood-protection stan-dards will be at least equivalent to those used in the protection of London. The design of the embankment will take into account predicted increases in sea level along with all other relevant factors such as the long-term subsidence of the East Anglian

region. Yours faithfully, JOHN BLEEK Ove Arup and Partners, 13 Fitzroy Street, W1. December 21.

Parliament to come to terms with a final decision. First and fore-

most, they abrogated the penal

laws of the colonial era and

adopted Ethiopian penal laws. Eritrea's standard flag was re-

placed by the tricolours of Ethio-pia. This was followed some years later by the decision to unite with

The countries mentioned in the

editorial and the United Nations

kept their "silence" out of their

commitment to respect the wishes

of the vast majority of the Entrean

people and because there was nothing illegal that would have

prompted them to act otherwise.

That is why the "dossier" related

to this question is closed once and

TEFERRA HAILE-SELASSIE

Embassy of the People's Demo-cratic Republic of Ethiopia. 17 Prince's Gate, SW7.

Sir, As Mr R. M. Purcell rightly

says (December 12), it is now a

direct Soviet interest to bring the

cruel Entrean war, which neither

Letters to the Editor should carry

a daytime telephone number. They

(01)782 5046.

Ethiopia.

for all.

Yours sincerely,

December 7.

From Mr H. P. Elliott

From Mr Kenneth W. Gatland Sir, Many congratulations to cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and

Musa Manarov on their epic achievement on December 21 of a year-long space flight (report, December 22). They and their support teams — engineers, sci-entists, doctors — have written a golden chapter in the annals of

space emploration. I was privileged to discuss the future of space exploration with Yuri Gagarin in 1964 and, in London, celebrated the triumph of Valentina Tereshkova with the first space lady berself, also in 1964. We in Britain who follow the development of international space programmes day by day salute Titov and Manarov for their supreme courage and enterprise.

When the first human explorers arrive on Mars their names - and those of other long-duration cosmonauts - will be recalled with honour as pathfinders. Yours etc. KENNETH W. GATLAND

(President, British Interplanetary Society, 1974-76), 10 Brook Mead, Epsom, Surrey.

December 22. TV standards

From Mr Philip Middleton Sir, Apropos Mary-Anne Sieg-hart's article "Keeping ITV's jew-els" (December 13) there is a

simpler way to ensure that TV companies have enough money to make decent programmes and then ensure that they satisfy the viewing public while still paying a decent levy for their licences.

The levy should come not on presentation of the licence, but periodically based on viewing figures. The more successful the programme the bigger the levy. If you can't attract audiences you lose your licence.

Profits after production works should likewise be levied, which will remove the temptation to buy in American and Australian junk. Yours etc. PHILIP MIDDLETON, Dashwood House, 69 Old Broad Street, EC2, December 13.

side can win, to an end, and to put pressure on Mengistu to come to terms. It is also a Western interest, particularly for Britain. And the UN has a key role.

Britain administered Eritrea for 10 years after World War II. Before leaving Britain, with America, got the UN General Assembly to adopt in 1950 the plan under which Eritrea would obtain full autonomy within an Ethiopian

When the Emperor annexed Eritrea in 1962, we made no protest. But this remains the unfinished item on the agenda of the General Assembly. The war which followed the annexation has greatly escalated in violence and mass starvation ever since Mengistu seized power in 1974, supported by Soviet military aid and hardware on a huge scale,

I know many senior Eritreans who look back with gratitude on the period of British administration. They still hope that Britain will not forget, but will press the UN to tackle its unfinished business. Yours sincerely, HUGH P. ELLIOTT.

Flat 8, Rosewood Lodge, 79 Wickham Road, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey. December 15.

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

for Social Security
Sir. Hermione Parker's article. The meanest trap of all" (December 20), began by complaining about the so-called mythology surrounding the social security benefit system. But what she went on to say, in an apparently authoritative way, contained not so much mythology, as horror tales worthy of the Brothers Grimm, and with about as much relationship with reality.

For example, at a time when all parties are agreed on the need for the Government to do all it can to publicise family credit and encourage take-up, what is the point of Hermione Parker alleging that claimants will be faced with "queues, the constantly engaged telephones, lost Giros, and fraud squads"?

No one is forced to queue for family credit. The process of claiming is handled by post. It can be paid direct to a bank or building society. People who have enquiries to make about eligibility or the progress of a claim can enquire through their local Social Security office, who have direct telephone access to the Family Credit Unit.

Presumably the mention of the fraud squads was meant to make some general point about the way in which the DSS views all its customers. If so it was contempt-

In fact Hermione Parker really seems to want it all ways when it comes to attacking family credit. On the one hand, she alleges that because it is paid for six months at a time, irrespective of changing circumstances, it cannot cope with the changing family circumstances and uncertainty faced by poorer claimants. But then she alleges that this very arrangement means that "it is unlikely that all those drawing family credit really need it". That really is like a defence of

Space achievement

take-up is not yet up to desirable levels, one thing it is possible to deduce reasonably from the expenditure pattern so far is that those with the higher levels of entitlement are already elaiming successfully. This hardly supports a view that the benefit is going to people who really do not need it; and it is rather dishonest, in the next breath, to extol the virtues of ehild benefit as a satisfactory alternative. Whatever the merits or otherwise of child benefit, there

can be no doubt at all that it goes

alternative alibi for Hermione

Parker's argument. One of the

virtues of family credit as a benefit is that it is available to a broader

range of people than FIS (family income supplement) was, recognising that the margins may have been drawn too tightly in the

While everyone agrees that

to many people who really could be said not to need it. It is possible, by selective example, to make contrived, hypothetical points about people still being better off out of work than in. Fewer than 20,000 people currently in work would be better off unemployed and elaiming income support. Only a quarter of those people have families with children (i.e., eligible for family

credit). The number of people who have a potential out-of-work income that comes within 90 per cent of their current wage is less than 100,000. In any case, arguments of this kind tend to ignore totally the fact that most people, whether they have families or not, do want the dignity of a job. Family credit brings that comfortably within the reach of many.

Yours faithfully, PETER LLOYD. Department of Health and Social Security, Richmond House 79 Whitehall, SW1.

Egg fever

December 23.

From Mr F. David Skidmore Sir, The science of bacteriology is quantitative. The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food should not only have been regularly monitoring the recent salmonella infestation rates in poultry flocks and infection of eggs but publishing the results in a form which the general public could understand. Routine random testing must, in future, be mandatory, and the results should be available

for public inspection. This random sampling technique has been an established function of ministry vets since the 1920s. We should remember that the safety of milk supplies in the UK through tuberculin testing of cattle was provided in the face of concerted protest by farmers and dairies.

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There was no excuse for Mrs Currie's lax use of language in the television interview which properly led to her resignation. However, there is no morality in compensating any egg producer who is shown by bacteriological testing to be the purveyor of contaminated food. Recompense for the financial effects of the minister's verbal inexactitude should only go to those producers whose eggs are sterile. Yours faithfully, DAVID SKIDMORE, 109 Harley Street, W1.

Father's footsteps

December 20.

From Mr Henry G. Button Sir, Mr R. Josiah Pratt (December 3) mentions three generations of his ancestors who were successively vicars of St Stephen's in the City from 1824 to 1911. There are at least three instances of fathers and sons whose successive incumbencies spanned more than a century.

The record seems to belong to Edward Beadon and his son Frederick, who were rectors of North Stoneham, in Hampshire, from 1760 to 1879. The father served from 1760 to 1810 and his son from 1810 to 1879. Yours faithfully, HENRY G. BUTTON, 7 Amhurst Court, Grange Road, Cambridge.

From Mrs F. V. B. Witts Sir, My late husband's greatgrandfather, the Reverend Francis Edward Witts, and his grandfather the Reverend Edward Francis Witts, and his father Canon Francis Edward Broome Witts, followed each other without a break, from 1808 to 1913 as rectors of Si Peter's Church, Upper Slaughter, Gloucestershire. Yours faithfully, ALICE M. WITTS, The Dingle, Upper Slaughter, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Sweetness and light

From Mr John Elton From Mr John Edon
Sir, We are told by Michael
Palmer (December 17) that the
choice of wine to accompany
dessert ("fruit and nuts") is
comparatively easy. I wonder if he has heard an old French adage confided to me by an elderly English francophile: Vin sur fruit - nuit!

Fruit sur vin - divin! For which I dare to offer a loose translation: Wine with fruit - a thing to miss! Fruit to follow - heavenly bliss! Yours faithfully, JOHN ELTON 3 Raymer Court St Albans, Hertfordshire.

December 17,

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Birthdays

CHRISTMAS EVE: Mr A.T. Baillie, diplomat, 56; Miss Jill Bennett, actress, 57; Mr Colin Cowdrey, cricketer, 56; Brigadier Dame Barbara Cozens, former director, Army Nursing Services, 82; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Vivian Donn military. nel Sir Vivian Dunn, military musician, 80; Sir Gerald Elliot, chairman, Christian Salvesen, 65; Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, QC, MP, 55; Mr Ernest Fernyhough, former MP, 80; Sir Stafford Foster-Sutton, QC, 90; Miss Ava Gardner, actress, 66; Mr Jeremy Hindley, racehouse trainer, 45; Dame Joan Kelleher, former director, WRAC, 73; Sir Noel Moynihan. former chairman, Save the Children Fund, 72; Miss Thea Porter, fashion designer, 61; Mrs J.D. Taylor, MP, 51; Viscount Thurso, 66; Dr W.E. van Heyningen, founding master, St Cross College, Oxford, 77; Mr, Philip Ziegler, author, 59.

CHRISTMAS DAY: Lord Annan, 72; Baroness Berners, 87; Mr James Bolger, racehorse trainer, 47; Miss S.J. Browne, principal, Newnham College, 64; Mr Kenny Everett, broad-caster, 44; Lord Grade, 82; the Ven Noel Jones, Bishop-designate of Sodor and Man. 56: Miss Annie Lennox, singer, 34; Sir Peter Matthews, former Chief Constable of Surrey, 71; Mr Ismail Merchant, film pro-ducer, 52; Sir Charles Mott-Padels for Senger MP 27; Sir Radelyffe, former MP. 77; Sir Geoffrey Organe, anaesthetist, 80; Professor Phyllida Parsloe, professor of social work, 58; Mr professor of social work, 58; Mr Nigel Starmer-Smith, sports commentator, 44, Sir Noel Stockdale, life president, Asda-MFI, 68; Lord Westwood 81. Leslie M'Caw

The Light at the inn

colourful but flimsy trappings, designed more to lighten our pockets rather than enlighten our minds this mid-winter festival, there is a story about a newborn child whose advent coincided with much inconvenience but exceptional

Who the mysterious infant eventually declared himself to be has tended to become uncertain with the passing centuries, particularly during the over-crowded and critical schedules of this modern age.

It was the Roman provincial gov ernor, almost 40 years later, who stumbled upon the question of a prisoner's identity and status. The reply of Jesus to Pontins Pilate implicitly affirmed his sovereignty but carefully pointed out that his kindgom was in no wise based upon the systems and ways of this world. The primary reason for his birth, he said, "the purpose for which he had come into the world was to bear witness to the truth"; his kingly authority lay elsewhere (John 18,14).

Perhaps his mother, sometime in his boyhood days, had shown him what remained of the myrrh and frankincense (hardly the gold) which had been offered to his infant majesty in Bethlehem years before. Anyway, it was a perplexed Pilate himself who wrote the royal title that was to be affixed above the thorncrowned claimant's head a few hours

The reality and nature of this man's rank was demonstrated a few days afterwards. The first Gospel concludes by stating that after his death and burial the resurrected Jesus commissioned his apostles with the words: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." That supremacy, reiterated in the apostolic epistles to the Church, is a far cry from the other red-robed bot corpulent figure associated by most ehildren with the activities of Christmas

The Church has always been concerned with the numerous scriptural statements dealing with the true identity of this Jew (such as Acts 17, 24-31), who was the first-born son of Mary living at Nazareth in Galilee. His imperial title is not described in provincial terms as Pilate's briefly was. It was certainly more extensive than any ruler of the Roman Empire could claim for it was vithout limit in extent or duration (John 12, 41: Hebrews 1, 2: Romans 8, 38/9). But personal identity is difficult to define precisely: our assessments of other people are biased, and we are often strangers to ourselves, our con-

cents are too restricted. There are ample grounds in the New Testament for the belief that Jesus was truly human, "made in most respects just like his fellow-men" (but with an access to and consciousness of the Father that we do not have).

It could be said that in the timeless inter-communion of the Deity, the Adamic disaster had been anticipated and precautions had been taken; the Lamb would be slain (John 1, 29 and 36) and everything, in heaven as well as earth, would be hallowed by the reconciliation effected through the Man who would say: "I am the bread of Life ... I am the Light of the world ... I am the Resurrection and the Life."

It may still seem preposterous to us that so vast a process and so gracious a God-gift should be inaugurated by the introduction into human history of a babe, born by candlelight in the rear shed of a country inn. It is reported that the event was marvellously publicised in the vicinity of Bethlehem but the only notable action taken by "the authorities" (not limited to Judea) occurred a evacuated to Egypt, Matthew 2, 13) when the perarious King Herod ordered the slaughter of perhaps a dozen or

more infants in that locality. Mary herself, feeling those tiny fingers clapsing one of her own, was only conscious of thankfulness and tiredness: neither she nor he yet know the strength of God's power that would ultimately work in this Son because God - having proposed that all perfection should be found in Him - wanted absolutely all things to be reconciled to Him and for Him ... when He made peace by His death on the cross (Col 1,20). Not until his lifetime was ending would the words be spoken, "for this purpose was I born and to this end I came into the world".

How could one human person cope with all mankind's inherent malady of unrest and corruption arising from our antagonistic and perverse attitude towards God, who has made us for a destiny which most people neither

understand nor want? What if that Person had access to powers and resources (love, trath, forgiveness and creativity) of a quality far beyond human comprehension? Is a banknote to be valued by the mere cost of a slip of paper or by the style and colour of its printing? Is not its worth to be interpreted by the resources and credibility of the issning company and by the meaning of the words carried over the inner papermark that shows it

Neither Joseph nor Mary would have gleaned much from Simeon's cryptic hints in the Temple a week or so later (Luke 2, 34-5), although he had definitely said, as he held the infant boy in his arms, that he had seen the salvation divinely prepared for all the nations to see. The God-story has only just begun. The writer is a retired Baptist minister.

OBITUARIES

PROF NIKOLAAS TINBERGEN

Insights into the way animals behave

FRS, Nobel Laureate and Emeritus Professor of Animal Behaviour at Oxford, who died on December 21 aged 81. was both a naturalist, with a real love of natural history. and an acute scientist.

He was one of the outstanding leaders in carrying the experimental method into the field and, with Konrad Lorenz, pioneered the raising of the study of animal behaviour from the plane of anedcote to the level of a science.

In 1973 he shared the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medi-cine with Karl von Freisch and Konrad Lorenz. His brother Jan, the well-known Dutch economist, had already won the Nobel Prize for this discipline four years before.

The son of Dirk Cornelis Tinbergen and Jeanette van Eek, Nicolaas Tinbergen was born in The Hagne on April 15, 1907. He was educated at the local state high school and at Leiden Univerity.

After being awarded his doctorate in 1932 for a thesis on insect behaviour, he set off with his newly-married wife, Elziabeth Amelie Rutten, who was also a scientist, to spend a year in Greenland with the Dutch expedition of the Inter-national Polar Year (1932-33). This was a great experience for him and had a lasting effect upon his work, stimulating him to bring more science into zoological field studies.

He became increasingly interested in the analysis of behaviour and in 1936 he was appointed Lecturer in Experimental Zoology at Leiden.

A prolonged stay with Konrad Lorenz at Altenberg, near Vienna, in 1937 was decisive in his career; there began the close collaboration between them which led to the foundation of the modern biological school of animal behaviour - now called

If many of the original theories were put forward by Lorenz, they were consid-erably clarified by Tinbergen, who studied them more rigorously and precisely by a more scientific approach. At times the two worked together and, when they were not so doing, they remained greatly influenced by one another so that it is not easy to separate their contributions.

Between them they brought about a complete re-examination of the theory of instincmost outstanding contributions which can certainly be attributed to Tinbergen are the discovery of what he called displacement activities, the experimental demonstration of an animal's reactions to "sign stimuli" and the realization that even the apparently most trivial movements of a bird, such as stretching the neck, have

significance.

Even before the Second

World War, Tinbergen had
several followers in Holland and, immediately after it, he stimulated other students at Leiden to take up the work; they studied the behaviour of

insects, fish and birds. During the war he refused to co-operate with the Nazification plans for Leiden University and was imprisoned by the German occupation authorities as a hostage between 1942 and 1944.

In 1947 he was made Professor of Experimental Zoology and head of the Zoology Department at Leiden. This, however, brought extra teaching and administrative duties which interfered with his research and in 1949, in order to devote himself more fully to his life's work, he accepted an invitation to become University Lecturer in Animal Behaviour at Oxford.

Here he again built up a flourishing school of research which steadily increased in importance. He was made

Reader in Animal Behaviour in 1960 and Professor in 1966. His work, up to 1950, was summarized in his deservedly successful book, The Study of Instinct (Clarendon Press 1951) and two years later came a smaller volume on

Social Behaviour in Animals. Tinbergen's personal re-search was chiefly carried out on the herring gull and the black-headed gull, on sticklebacks and on the grayling butterfly. His work on the first pecies was brought together in his New Naturalist monograph The Herring Gult's World in 1953.

He contributed an important chapter on the development of ethology to the volume Scientific Thought 1900-1960, edited by R. Harre (Clarendon Press, 1969). After the war he founded, with Professor W.H. Thorpe of

Tinbergen wrote various popular books and also books for children; in his Curious daughters

Professor Nikolaas Tinbergen, tive behaviour. Perhaps the Naturalists (1959) he published a delightful account of the many different lines of work he and his pupils had conducted.

> Tinbergen was a superb photographer and used the ciné camera extensively for the analysis of behaviour petterns. For public instruction he made some outstanding films illustrating his discov-eries in the behaviour of different species; one of these which he made with Hugh Falkus, called Signals for Survival, was awarded the Italia Prize for documentary films in

He spent much time lectur-ing with the result that 200logists have gained a much greater respect for the study of behaviour in the field, while amateur naturalists have gained an insight into the deeps problems by their bird watching; various terms coined by Tinbergen bave now passed into the general language of the behaviour student.

His charm and simplicity of manner so evident in his children's books were striking characteristics which made him very easily approached by students and colleagues.

His mixture of personal modesty and steel-hard determination to foster his branch of science made him the ideal mentor. Like Konrad Lorenz, he displayed an evangelical zeal in "spreading the word" about the im-portance of the ethological method of studying and understanding animal and human behaviour.

After his retirement at Oxford he spent more than a decade investigating the spe-cial problems of autistic children. He and his wife devoted hours to watching the behaviour of such children, and then drew conclusions based on their studies of animal communication. Their work in this area of human behaviour was presented in Autistic Children: New Hope for a Cure

of Wolfson College.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.T.B. Lloyd and Miss W.S.M. Schut

The engagement is announced between Timothy, eldest son of Sir Richard and Lady Lloyd, of Sundridge, Kent, and Wil-helmina, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs G.H.A. Schut, of Amstelveen, The Netherlands.

Mr S.W. Argenbright and Mrs V.G. Ryder

The engagement is announced between Sleven, only son of Mr L. Argenbright, of Roneoak, Virginia, and Mrs Stone, of Sussex, and Valerie (nee King), only daughter of the late Mr and Mrs J.A. King, of Pembridge,

and Miss S. Ames The engagement is announce between Andrew Barrett, of

Jane Ames, of Norwich.

and Miss C.A.de H. Bell The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and and Catherine, eldest daughter

Milford-on-Sea, Hampshire and Reigate, Surrey.

Pudsey and Putney, and Susan

Lieutenant A.B. Cowen and Miss H.J. Woodcock

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Andrew Bruce Cowen, 1st Battalion Prince of Wales's Own Regi-ment of Yorkshire, and Miss Helen Joan Woodcock, of Scalby, Scarborough.

Latest wills

Mr A.P. Dunham
and Miss N.E. Stewart
The engagement is announced between Aidan Peter, younger son of Professor and Mrs Ansel Dunham, of Hallatoo, Leicestershire, and Norma Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Carl Stewart, of Heddonon-the-Wall, Northumberland.

Mr and Mrs Peter Craig, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, are pleased to announce the engage-ment of their daughter, Julie Elizabeth, to David Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Frederick Eaton, of Wanstead, London,

Mr T.W.A. Fairlie and Miss J.M. Travers

The engagement is announced between Timothy, second son of Mr F.L. Fairlie, of Midhurst, Sussex, and the late Mrs Fairlie. and Jane, youngest daughter of, Mr T. Travers and the late Mrs Travers, of 9 Booker Street, Attadale, Western Australia

Mr Q.M.B. Freeman

and Miss P.A. Ball The engagement is announced between Quentin, younger son of the late Mr Michael Freeman and of Mrs Cynthia Freeman, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, and Polly, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Ball, of Shoreham, Kent.

Mr A.F. Gardiner

and Miss E.F. Hughes
The engagement is announced between Fraser, son of Mr and Mrs A.F. Gardiner, of Edinburgh, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Hughes, of Tybroughton, Whitchurch.

Mr R. Heerbeck and Miss J.E. Scurfield

and Miss J.E. Scurfield
The engagement is announced
between Richard, only son of
Mrs Margaret Heerbeck, of Waltham on the Wolds, Leicestershire, and the late Mr A.
Heerbeck, and Jane, eldest
daughter of Mrs Ann Scurfield and Mr Hugh Scurfield, of

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John, reigned 1199-1216, Oxford, 1167; George Crabbe, poet, Aldeburgh, Suf-folk, 1754; James Joule, physi-cist, Salford, Lancashire, 1818; John Morley, Viscouth Morley of Blackburn, statesman and writer, Blackburn, 1838; Mat-thew Arnold Lischam, Middle.

writer, Biackburn, 1858; Mat-thew Arnold, Lalcham, Middle-sex, 1822; Juan Ramoo Jiménez, poet, Nobel laureate 1956, Moguer, Spain, 1881.

DEATHS: William Makepeace Thackeray, London, 1863; Al-ban Berg, composer, Vienna, 1935.

and diamonds

Mr H.J. Longman
and Dr A.L. Armstrong
The engagement is announced
between Harold John, eldest son
of Canon and Mrs Edward
Longman, of Sutton Coldfield,
and Alison Louise, elder daughter of Colonel and Mrs William
E.I. Armstrong, of South Wirral,
Cheshire.

Dr D.S. Nicholas and Miss P.J. Seal

The engagement is announced between David, only son of Dr and Mrs Stuart Nicholas, and Penelope, only daughter of the Reverend and Mrs Philip Seal, of The Rectory, Portesham,

> Mr A. O'Comer and Miss S. Hawthorne

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr P. O'Connor, of Little Singleton, and Mrs C. O'Connor, of daughter of the Reverend and Mrs John Hawthorne, of Tetbury Vicarage, Glou-

> Mr T.M. Perks and Miss C.S. Brooke

The engagement is announced between Timothy, younger son of the late Mr and Mrs Michael Anthony Perks, and Carolyn, cidest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Brooke, of Tarrant Gunville, Dorset. Timothy and Carolyn are currently residing in the USA.

and Miss H.F. Sharp

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs D. Sandison, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, and Heather, second daughter of Mr N.M. Sharp, Letham Grange, Angus, and the late Mrs J.K. Christic and stepdaughter of Mrs M.A.

Mr J.L. Sumucks and Miss L.J.F. Davies

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs J.H.G. Sunnucks, of East Mersea Hall, Colchester, Essex, and Lucinder, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.V.C. Davies, of Whatley House, Frome, Somerset.

Mr W.M. Wright and Miss J.A. Whittle

Temorrow

and Miss J.A. Waittle
The engagement is announced
between William Mark, younger
son of Mr and Mrs W. Wright,
of Cubley, Yorkshire, and Julia
Ann, elder daughter of Mrs B.M.
Whittle, of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, and the late Mr
LR. Whittle.

BIRTHS: Sir Isaac Newton

DEATHS: Karel Capek, drama-tist, 1938; W. C. Fields, film comedian, 1946; Sir Charles ("Charlie") Chaplin, 1977.

The Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts, 1620.

SCIENCE REPORT

Cancer: Boosting the immune system

occasional successes. Researchers at the US National report this week on a new cancer therapy that successfully reduced tumour size in some patients with malignant melanoma, a usually fatal form of cancer.

Although the therapy is still that may have broader completely disappeared, applications in the future. Because the experi

it uses a patient's own immune three years ago by National Steven Rosenberg. His latest results appear in the Decem-

England Journal of Medicine.
A type of blood cells called lymphocytes act as natural killer cells for the immune system, hunting down tumour time to prepare cells and destroying them. But the TIL cells. when cancer progresses, these natural defences are over- side effects, including chills, whelmed. Rosenberg and his nausea and diarrhoea. Three

tumour infiltrating lymphosions.

cytes, or TIL for short.

Rose laboratory, then reinjecting them into the patient with the hope that they will reinfiltrate

removing a portion of a patient's tensour, grinding it up, and separating the TIL cells. They then add interleukin-2, a matarally occuring substance that

BIRTHS: Sir Isaac Newton, mathematician and astronomer, 1642; William Collins, poet, 1721; Alexander Scriabin, composer, 1872; Mohammed Ali Jinnah, first governor-general of Pakistan 1947-48, 1876; Maurice Utrillo, painter, 1883; Dame Rebecca West, novelist and critic, 1892; Humphrey Bogart, film actor, 1899. The laboratory-grown TIL fied TIL cells are reaching the cells are injected back into the target tumours. cells are injected back into the patient, who has first been treated with a drug that prevents the immune system from rejecting the TIL cells target tunaves.

If the TIL cells are working as expected, it will be an ecouraging sign that adoptive immunotherapy is a promising direction for future cancer therapy.

Joseph Palca

CROON A D CREEK, CALLED SAVOY, OVEREN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 6.30 HC 11 S Euch. Darks in F. Ven R Sharpely. Wellington Barracks, SWI: *11.30 Midmight Mess, 11 M: 12 HC, Hodie Christin natus est (Swedinct). Nativity Carol (Ruther). The Grandler Charton natus est (Swedinct). Nativity Carol (Ruther). The Grandler Charton The Chapter, CRAY'S INN CHAPEL: 8.30 HC, CROON E JUSTES, TOWER OF LONDON, EC3: *11.30 HC.

In the war on cancer there are a skin cancer, that had spread to other parts of the body. In addition to injections of

Cancer Institute in Bethesda TIL cells, the patients received supplemental doses of interleukin-2 during their treatment. Some patients responsed dramatically, especially considering that conventional chemotherapy rarely works for this cancer. Tubeing refined, and may never mours shrunk in 11 of the 20 be widely available, it is a new approach to treating cancer one of these patients tumours

Because the experiments The therapy is called adop-tive immunotherapy, because the researchers cannot say for sare that the therapy will system to combat the cancer. It prevent the tumours from was first developed about growing again, but one patient three years ago by National is still doing well a year after

The technique is not without problems. Not everyone reber 22 issue of The New sponds to the therapy, and the researchers do not yet know why. The therapy is also very labour intensive, and requires much laboratory and clinical time to prepare and administer The treatment also has toxic

colleagues have found a quarters of the patients in the particular form of lymphocyte study became anemic after the that has a special attraction treatment, some requiring as for tumours which they call many as six blood transfu-Rosenberg is about to em-

The therapy involves remov- bark on a new and controver-ing the TIL cells from a sial series of experiments to patient's tumour, purifying prove that his TIL therapy is and activating them in the working as it is should. Along working as it is should. Along with a collaborator, W. French them into the patient with the hope that they will reinfiltrate the tumour with sufficient vigour to destroy it.

The researchers begin by gene into the TIL cells that are

promotes the growth of human subject. The marker lymphocytes, to the purified will show researchers how many of the laboratory modi-

Cambridge, the international journal Behaviour.

published in 1983. Tinbergen became a British subject in 1954. In 1956 he was elected a Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, and in 1962 a Fellow of the Royal Society. When he was made professor he became a Fellow

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, two sons and three

LIEUT-GEN SIR JOHN EVETTS

Behind-the-scenes work in weapon procurement

Lieutenant-General Sir John Evetts, CB, CBE, MC, who died on December 21 aged 97, was one of a remarkable band Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) between the two world wars who were later to become Generals. No less than thirteen of them achieved this

Though Evetts was one of the ablest officers of his generation, and an excellent commander of troops, he had to spend much of the war behind the scenes in the War Office, but with there he served with outstanding success. His subsequent contribution to the successful development of this country's nuclear armoury owed much to his earlier experience of Iraq with his reputation weapon procurement during

John Fullerton Evetts was born on June 30, 1891. After Lancing and Sandhurst he was commissioned into the Cameronians in 1911 and served in France during the Great War, mostly with his regiment but for part of the time with the Machine Gun Corps. He was awarded the

rejecting the TIL cells targeted for the tamow. The direction for fature cancer researchers have tried their therapy.

Joseph Palca All had malignant melanoma, Character therapy on 20 patients.

All had malignant melanoma, Character therapy is a promising direction for fature cancer therapy on 20 patients.

Joseph Palca cancer therapy on 20 patients.

All had malignant melanoma, Character therapy is a promising direction for fature cancer therapy on 1928 with the British Military when war broke out in 1939. He commanded Western (Independent) District in 1940 before moving to the Middle



tion battalion for the new Iraq Army, and he returned from considerably enhanced.

Three years later he was given command of the 1st Battalion Royal Ulster Rifles in Egypt. What would have been a normal tour in command was interrupted by the outbreak of the Arab rebellion in Palestine where Evetts commanded 16 Infantry Brigade from 1936 to 1939. He proved himself to be a

Military Cross and mentioned resourceful and inspiring com-in dispatches. resourceful and inspiring com-mander of troops and was Having made his mark as an unusually able officer, Evetts served in Iraq from 1925 to 1928 with the British Military Mission West Served out in 1937, and CB in 1939. appointed CBE for his services

GOC 6th Division. He led his division successfully during the brief campaign in Syria in 1941 but soon thereafter returned home to assume the onerous appointment of ACIGS in the War Office, with special responsibility for Weapons Procurement. This was a vitally important

East where he was appointed

if unglamorous appointment which Evetts discharged to the best of his considerable abilities. Indeed much of the credit for equipping the Brit-ish Army to take part in the Normandy Landings must be

After the war he served as Schior Military Adviser in the Ministry of Supply until 1946 when he retired. The Americans recognized his services by awarding him the Legion of

Merit in 1943. He then became a senior member of the British team involved in developing and testing nuclear weapons in Australia; he was Head of the Ministry of Supply staff from 1946 to 1951, and Chief Executive of the Join! UK-Australian Long Range Weap-ons Board of Administration from 1946 to 1949.

Evetts was knighted in 1951 and had a successful career in industry from 1951-60, first as Managing Director and then as Chairman of Rotol Ltd. He married Helen Becher in 1916 and she predeceased him. They had one son.

Mr Graham Matthews wishes his friends at home and abroad a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Mr Robin John Skelton, of Alderley Edge, Cheshire......£545,975.

Mrs Margaret Louise Kay-Smith, of Rickmansworth,

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TO MADE CHAIRCH, Flort Street, EOS.

T. 20 HC. 11.15 MP & HC. Street,
Forth, O becauseous heavenuy sight
forth, O becauseous heavenuy sight
forth, Resources (Smith), Vancinan
Williams in C. Warrord Davies in G
Perial, Giorie in excets Dec
Chestost, The Massey.

ST CLEMENT DAVES (RAF Church)
WC2 *11.30 Midmight Mass. First
WC2 *11.30 Midmight Mass. First
Moss in C. Vetcaril, O magnum
mysterium (Vetcaril), Ven B N Hair.
penny 9 HC. 11 Eich, Davies in F. O
Little Case Sweet (Sach), Rey in J
Stoker. Candissippit, 11 Femily Service Williamson, ALL SAINTS, Maryanet Street, W1: "Midnight Mass, Mass Sancti Nicotal Chardin, Hodie Christia name set (Sweetinck, The Victr, 8 LM; 11 FM, Missa Brevts in D Ghozard, Hodie Christia name et (Poulenci, Rev S J mid-winter Obrico, Very Rev D L
Edwards Institut File Cartific Drain Institut File Country

"11.15 Middingon Mass. 7, 8, 9, 10.30,
12 Mess: 3.30 V.
12 Mess: 3.30 V.
13 Mess: 3.30 V.
14 Mess: 3.30 V.
15 GEORGIE CATHEDRAL SOUTHWARTE VS.30 CHINDRAL SOUTH-

8.30, 12.10 HC: 10.30 S Ench. Rev K L Vaise.
ST ALBAN'S, Broote St. ECI: *12
HM 4 Procession, Missa Sancti
Notati Glaydin, Fr Gaskell, 9.30 LM:
11 SM. Fr Balott,
ST ERIDE'S, Fleet Street, ECS:
*11.30 Candiellt Midmight Missa,
Mosart in a Saz, Canon J Oetes, 11
Family Morning Service, Herwood in
A Bar, Canon J Oetes, Herwood in
A Bar, Canon J Oetes, Herwood in
A Bar, Canon J Oetes, Technical
ST CLTHEERT'S, Philibeach Cardens
SW8: *11.45 Midmight Mass, Ireland
in C. Nativity Carol (Ruiter), in the
back mid-winder Obrisch, Rev Bill, 6
HC; 10.30 S Ench. Gaboons in F, Rev GEORGE'S, Bloomsbury, WCI: Servici. Rev G Rowlandson: 11.30 Mr. JAMES'S. Piccardiny. W1: +3 Crifferen's Service and Bleesten of the Cris: +11.30 Midnight Mass, Mosee de Minutt (Charpender). The next re-B-30 FK (1662): 11 S Each. The Bestier. ST. John's Hote Park Orsonia W2-e5.30 Children's Candelli Service: "11.50 Midnight Mass. Rev T Birchard. 8 HC 10 Perish Each with Sanday School. Rev T Haristin 6.30 Simple Prayers at the Cris. ST. John's Wood Church. NWS: \$11.50 Messe de Minnst (Charpenber). In the bleak mid-winter (Carbenber). In the bleak mid-winter (Carbenber). Walker, 8 HC 9.30 Pacies Common

Service, Up Good Christian Folk and Listen (art. Woodward), Rev D Watson.

ST MARK'S Repeats Park Rd, NW1: watson.

ST MARK'S Repeats Park Rd, NW1: hadringed SM & Beauting of the Cris. Caronidison Mane (Mozard), Rev T D Jones. S HC: 10.30 S Ench. Misse Secunda Gianter). Same Day Carol Rutler). Rev J Humble.

ST MARGARET'S Westmenter.

ST MARGARET'S Westmenter.

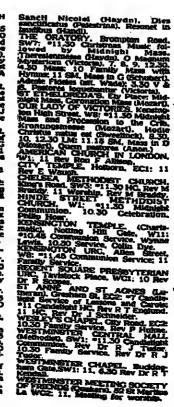
ST MARGARET'S Westmenter.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FELOS, WC2: "6.30 Carol Service: "11.30 Midmight Luch. Rev C Richardson. 11 M. The Rector: 12.15 HG: 16.52; 9.45 Euch. Rev S Roberts: 11.30 Mg. The Vicar: 248 Culmes Service. Rev G Lee: 8.30 ES & Carols. Rev M Hemwood.

ST MARY ABBOTS. Kemaington. WS: 5.12.30 HC: 9.30 S Euch. The Vicar: 11.15 M. The Vicar: 4 E. The Vicar: 11.30 Midmight HM & Carols. Messe de minust (Chaipmenter). Holie (Sweethel). Ft J Gilling. 9, 945 LM: 11 HM. Missa octavi tool (Lasses). Ft B Hoctte.

ST MARY LEBONE. Marylebone Stocked. W: "11.30 Midmight Mass.

Services for Christmas ST COLLIMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOT.
LAND. Post Street. SW1: 91.30
Candisiph Service. Rev J H McIndoe.
10 HC. Rev J H McIndoe: 11 Family.
Rev W. Catras. 11 Family.
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOT.
LAND. Covet Carden. WC2: "11.18
Watch Night Service. 11 Rev Dr K O



- 12 mg - 12 m

MANY WATER

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fallowship can with an-often and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son circuseth us from all sid. 1 John 1:7

RIPTHS

BAILEY - On December 11th 1988, at Linkversity College Hospital, London. University College Hospital, Londo to Sue (née Cook) and John, a daug ter. Francesca Madeleine Aletta, CASTLE - On December 22nd, to Deborah (née Shaw) and David, a son, Benjamin David. CULLIMAN On December 16th, 1988 to Caroline (née Dallos) and Geoffrey, a son, a brother for Harrist and Catherine.

EVANS - On December 20th, at The

Malida Hospital, Hong Kong to Olwen the Lanel and Eric, a daughter. Alice Togwan, a sister for

GARR - On November 26th to Richard

and Carol (see Brewer), a son, John Richard Escott. Brother for Alice Victorie Escott and half-sister to Cathryn Escott. JACKMAN - On December 23rd to Caroline unfe Woods) and Richard a daughter. Chariotte Margaret, a sister for Counte and Rosamu. O' MAHONY - On December 20th to Jame (née Hume) and Fergus, a daughter. Cornella Beatrice Buse, a

SEAL - On December 21st at St Thomas' Hospital to Pamela (nee Wilson) and Richard, a daughter Emily. SOAN On November 29th at 4pm, so Theresa and David. of Old Bedsey. Kent. a beautiful daughter. Alexandra Theresa Ann.

SPRK - On December 8th in Amsterdam to Katle (Née Armstrong) and Jonathan, a son, Joshua James TEDDER-PEDRAZZINI On December 20th in St Gatlen. to Beatrice and Alexander. a daughter, Josephine Constance Cecilia, a sister for

Geratume.
THOMAS - On December 6th, at Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital to Kay (nee Weijers) and Craig, a Gaughter, Antonia Maria. The proud and the staff for a safe delivery. WALKER - On December 22nd, in To-lovo, to Sara (nice Hepburn) and Patrick, a son.

WILLIAMSON - On 13th December, to Lisa (nee Solcan) and David, a son. Rhys Frederick Anthony. WOOD : On December 13th 1988, to Heather Infe Sendan) and Geoff, a son, Sam Andrew Jay, a brother for Faye and Silke.

ADOPTIONS

ADAMS - On December 21st 1988, to Maria and John, a daughter, Lettis Maria Clara now aged 6 months.

ANNIVERSARIES

DOUROF-SOALEN - On December 25th 1938 at St Luke's Church. Bermondsey. Louis Jean to Guadys Lillan. Congratulations from Carole. Maureen and Families.

DEATHS

ABRAHAM On December 23rd, in Chichester, Frances E.R., aged 92.
Dear mother of Mary and Alan, By
her request oo flowers please, but donations if wished to the R.N.L.L. AMDERSON On December 21st, veronica, widow of James O'Gorman Anderson, much loved mother, transmonther, sister and friend. Funeral December 29th 2 30pm at \$1 John's Church, Wolton, Dor king, Family flowers only but donations to British Heart Foundation, 102 Giougester Place, Lundon, W.1. AXTEM - On December 20th, suddenly Kennedy, Architect, Moretons, Westerham, Keni, Much loved and loving husband of Eba and dearest Pa of Sarah, Nick and Lucie and Grandpa of Olivia, Private crema-tion. Details of a memorial service in Westerham will be announced later,

SEARDER: On December 23rd, peacelufty in a nursing home after a long
iliness borne with great dignity and
courage. Joan, of Milibank Court,
London, 5W1. Greination at Randalls
Park, Leatherhead, 11 am Friday
December 50th, No flowers, by request but donations if desirted to Sue
Ryder Memorial Homes.

CHARNWOOD - On December 21st.
Beryl Joan. In her 80th year, widow
of Second Baron Charnwood.
beloved friend of Carola and Sanda.
Requirm mass at St Theresa Calholic
Church. Ashford. on Tuesday January 3rd at 12 noon. Flowers to F. C.
Wood. 21 Tuflon Street. Ashford. Wood, 21 Timon Street, Astrono.
Chiriste. On December 22nd 1966, beacefully in Honeywood House Nursing Home. Horsham, Prellis Mary, 3sed 89, formerly of Reigale. Belowed mother of Sally sod Andrew. wife of the late John Westwick. Funeral 12.30 pm on December. 28th al. Guildford Crymatorium, No flowers. Donations to R.N.L.L. or Royal Institute for Blind.

COCHRANE On December 23rd 1988, peacefully at her home in Win-chester. Ella Middred, Wife of the late Criter Morris Cochrane R.N. Funerai service at Winchester Cathedral on Thursday January 5th 1989 at 1 45mm

DWERRYHOUSE On December 22nd, Ann (Willow). Dearly loved write of the late Lesile and mother of Peter Funeral service private. GRANGER On December 22nd 1988, suddenly at Harrogate General Hospital, Norman Wray, aged 82. Dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. Private family cramation. Family flowers only. Date of Memorial Service to be annunced. Memorial Service to be announced.

MARGAN - On December 22nd 1988.

Doctor James John KSG Fellow of the British Medical Association aged 91 years. Lowing and beloved hisband of Molly Oboctor Mary MalcLarcop adored and adoring father and grandfather. Requiren mass at St. Bedes Roman Catholic Church. Rothertham. on Thursday December 29th at 11.30 am. All enquiries to Jarantson & Sons Funeral Objectors, Weshalle. Rotherham. Tel 0709 382576

MEALEY - On December 21st 1988, reaccusity in a Sussex nursing home, windered Mary, aged 99 years. Cently inved mother of Denis Healey, Enquires to Cooper & Son Funeral Service, 42 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, (0275) 475557 of Ucklick 5763.

WORD-WATCHING Auswers from page 20

PEIRASTIC

(b) Experimental, tentative, from the Greek perustitus, peint a trial:
"One belonging to a merely speculative and peleastic school." BANI

(a) To cheat or houx, a houx or false tail, of the same age as bamboote, and either an abbreviation or root of it. Swift. "Her helyship was plagaily bemb'd."

SINGULT (a) A sob, from the Latin singular sobbing. Spenser: Then an lauge heap of singules did oppress his strongling soul."

(c) The Mayans of Southern Mexico and Honduras use bot as nous and adjective (pronounced bowl) to serve for in-laws as well as stapidity. Variations of this root word also indicate the kind of dazed beforement that comes from a hit on the head, or drugs, or beare.

KULUKUNDĖS - On December 21st. suddenty and tragically, on flight PA 103. Minos Christopher aged 38. Deeply mourned by bis wife Marina, his sons John. Constantine and Eties. his mother Maria, sister Angela and

brother Ellas. MACMULAN - On December 22nd at Harcfield Hospital after a long fight courageously sustained, Rosenarie, beloved wife of David and adored mother of Rosanne. Ferrelia. Timothy and Juitetts. Forever in our hearts. Quiet family funeral at Amerikam Cremaiorium, 3.30 pm Friday December 30th. No flowers please but donalisms may be sent to the Harefield Transplant Trust. A memorial service will be held in January.

PNRLIPS On December 22nd 1988, suddenly at his home at Eastry, near Sandwich, Kent, David Cecil. aged 64 years, Funeral service will be hold on Friday December 30th 1988, at 1.30pm in Eastry Parish Church, followed by Cremation at Barham Crematorium. Family Rowers only, but donations it desired to The Pigrims Hospics, Canterbury c/o of The Brett Funeral Service, 20 High Street, Sandwich, Ment.

PIGOTT - On December 23rd, Peace-fully at his Glasgow home, Dr James Francis Gillery Pigott, Service at Hortey Church nr Banbury at 12 middity January 6th.

PRESECT on December 22nd peacefully at home. After a long timess, borne with great courage and dignity, facilith Mary (nee Heirper) aged 39, beloved wife of Peter and roother of Charlotte and Jonathan. Cremation for Earnity only at Charlog crematorium on December 30th, No Slovers please, but donations if dearred to: Imperial Cancer Research Fund P.O. box 123, Lincolns in Pields. London WC2A 3F9X. Memorial service to be announced. Enquiries to Pickard & Beale, Tel: (0622) 577165.

QUARKE - On December 23rd 1988, in Dublin, very screnely after a long ill-ness borne with courage. Arthur Gerrard, beloved husband of Breada and dear father of Alphonsus. Funer-al today. Saforday, in Dublin. pescerully at home in Hitchin. Dr. Alexander Gibson. Reid D.S.C. M.B. Ch.B. Much loved mashand of Elizabeth and dear father of Alan and Clare. Service at St. ppolyts Church near Hitchin on Thursday December 29th at 1.45pm followed by private cremation. No flowers release.

REESMER On December 21st. Alsom Barbara aged 71 years of 74 Temple Way. West Lidney. Gloucestershire. beloved wife of the late Edgar, dearly loved mother of Roper. Suan. Nicola end Sophie. Hunch loved granty of Barbara. Elisabeth. Georgina. Annabel. Hannah. Chloe and Toby. Funeral service at Saint Mary's Church. Lidney. Gloustershire on Thursday December 29th at 2.00pm. Flowers may be delivared to the Churh. further enquiries to Gordon Blakes' Funeral Directors. Animms Leaves Funeral Home. 3 Swan Rd. Lidney. Gloucestershire. Tel: (Dean) 41056 or 44116 or 25484.

SANGUNACTTI On December 21st peocefully at Torrington Cottage Hospital Roger of 8 Stevenstone Court St Cales in the Wood Torrington North Devon (formerly Major to the Ensex Regiment and Royal Army Pay Corp), Husband of the late Patricia, father of Peter and grandfather of Avril and Zoe. Funeral arrangements taker, All enquiries to Mar, R Gibbs And Son Funeral Director's 6 St Gles in The Wood Torrington North Devon (10805) 22364.

SMITH On December 22nd, 1990 peacefully after a long tilness. Ronald James Smith C.A. dear husband of Sally (Doris). Funeral service at the Woodvale Crematorium. Brighton, Tuesday, January 3nd at 11,00 am. Family flowers only but donations if desired for the Beighton Heart Support Trust may be sent C/O W.A. Stripper and Son, 12 Kenshndon

Stringer and Son, 12 Kensingto Gardens, Brighton, No mourning TARREM - On December 22nd, in hos-pital at Essem. Gwendoline Mary Inée Burgesi) agod 90, Formetry of Lelesser, widow of Selwyn and be-loved mother of Elizabeth and Anne.

TAYLOR - On December 21st, peacefully after a long litness, John Stoir Clack), beloved husband of Margaret, father of Valerte and Anthony and standfather of Caroline and Educurd. Funeral service at 10.15em on December 30th at Christ Church, Radiett, following private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Christian Ald. C/o Nethercotts. Radiett.

TWALLIN On December 22nd 1988 at home. Theodore Roe, much loved father of Richard. Anne end Caroline and devoted grandfather. Funeral at Trinity United Reform Church. Freelands Road. Bromley of 11.50am on December 30th. No flowers. donations to the British Diabetic Association.

WHITE On December 17th 1988 at Wextam Park Hospital Slough. Kambeen Mabel last surviving daughter of B.F. White labe of Rowe White and Co. of Maidenhead aged 87 years. Cremation private and no Bowers by her request. R.L.P.

WILLIAMS On December 22nd.
peacefully in hospital. Constance
May, of Kew, Surrey Dear mother

WRIGHT - On Thursday December 22nd 1988, peacefully at \$2. John's Hospital, Aberdeen, Ll. Col. Harry Wright, DSO, MBE, MC. C. Jake of the Gordon Highlanders) to his 98th year. Beloved husband of the late Margaret and much loved father of the late Harry and Jill. grandfather and greatprandiather. A service of thankspiving will be held privately.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

MAINN - C. E. Died October 30th 1988.

Memorial service for Cocky Hahm,
12 noon Wednesday January 18th
1989, St. Clement Dense Church,
The Strand, London, WC2. No flowcra please, donations if desired to:
Save The Children Fund, 17 Grove
Lans, Camberwell, London, SE3
8RD or Medical Aid For Palestimlens,
29 Enford Street, London W1H 1DC.

IN MEMORIAM - WAR BEFFREYS - to proud and constant memory: of Robin Edmand. who died 24 November 1965, And of John Darel, killed in action 16 Au-oust 1943, Also on this, his birthday, of Edmund Hearty D.F.G. R.A.F. lost in action at sea in 1944.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

CRUECKSHAMK Andrew, to loving memory on your birthday, Christ-mas Day, Curigwen.

MELVILLE . Alan. Always remembered with love. Midge and agency.

angles Borelius. Margret NiemoßerVowinckel. Ingeborg sadly missed
and always remembered with love.

J.C.C.

PARISCIAN In loving memory of Manous Parikian who died December 24th 1987. SIMSON - Our love to Wynne on her Burthday, and to ber A.E.J. H.J. & J. SMITH - In loving memory of Frank, dear humband of Eva and father of Lawrence and Gillian.

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OCHRES SEVENS House at 18 Folgate Street, Sothalfields, will be open to view by candicipatr on Caristmess Eve from 6.30 to 9.30 pm. £3 at door. THE MARKIAGE BLESSHIR of Mr and Mrs Anthony Jeffrin will lake place at 1 o'clock today at Eversley Parist

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Quiero. Rob xxx. Quieto. Bob 2022.

BBBREX - Part use UNOC a very marry Christmes to you all. Dan.

BENEZY-OUS romantic male German student (25). Write: W. ALO-S. Bateon Hall. Portspectits, pp. 288, ANDRA 'Pwessie' Barrett have a great 21st birthday, lots of love. January, SAIRDERS Alison, Looking forward to 1989 with you, love John Jones. SCIENCE Student seeks summer vacation work - Nick. 6 Dealtwood Road. Leices-ter LE2 1PH

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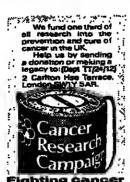
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with successful business and social life
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and trainingers, prefereity based, Lon-toux Kernt (Structure) to with a
base from You, Reply to BOX 6844 to
best from You, Reply to BOX 6844. hear grow you, seeply to suck safe.

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WRETITE beautiful for these columns.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

ANGIR - Thank you for caring for me. Huppy Christmes love Minnie (trisid of NELF). rain grace on the

PKL Leading Leating Agent Ent 20 years tailer a complete service for brancis For the finest selection of properties to the prime residential areas of Central & NW London. Chalme 10. 352 81 11, Holland park 727 2283 Regents Park 569 5882

LOUISE Hove you (It's to "The Times" so it must be true) Happy Christmas, but no peakings Adoringly yours, Barry

MARTYN and all the family Marry XXXX & Happy New Year, sorry I won't b theral See you soon. Love Joanne XXX MAURETH - You are the light of my life the star on my tree and the love to my heart. Happy Chrisman love Adrian. MEJERY CHEESTHAS my during. Pro-sorry we can't spend if together - maybe next year? I love you lock. MIR PANTS Sir Shouting Thompson sa Buy my practi placed Happy Christman etc. Mr Pants

RTY Pretty Lady: In acknowledging your pledged oternal love, I return a part of R with this message, logaliter with my own so dust we may share R I love you loss. Happy Christman, Durling, John. THEROLAS AND JERSTY Richardson with all their friends a Metry Christman and a very Happy New Year. HICHOLS Marry Christmas Music Lots of

PAGE BET W. SELTON, I fove you so very much. Please please marry me. Merry Christmas love John.

PFIZZE Livested extends to all criends and seaccists. Christmas greetings and every you do lost for the common year. As usual, the Company will be making donalloss to charify insied of sanding Christmas cards. SCORPIO : I wish u ell u wish y'self. Hap py Christman. LAWU. Myosolis.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
IMAGE INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL
SERVICES DATE OF THE OWNER AND FINANCIAL
This notice to the Commission with the process of the Commission of the Commis SSO, was appointed Liquidator of the Company.
Notice a siso given that the creditors of the above named Company, which is being voluntarity weigned up, are required, on or before the 20 day of January 1999 to send to their full Carnillan and surnames their addresses and descriptions of their debts or claims, and the necess and addresses of their Solicitors of any), to the understaned, Kenneth James Bartier FCA of 805 Santhury House, 31 Frabury Carcas, London ECEM SSQ, the Liquidator of the said Company and, if so required by notice to writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by that Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts and claims at such time and place as shall be specified to such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

IN THE HIGH COLIET OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
NO. 006417 OF 1988
IN THE MATTER OF MACPHERSON
FURLIC LINGTED COMPANY
OTHER MATTER OF THE
COMPANIES ACT 1986
NOTICE is bereity given that the Order of
the High Court of Justice (Commenty Division) ditted 6th December 1986 CONFERMING THE CANCELLATION of the
amount of £25,000,507 stending in the
credit of the State Perenduin Account of
the above named Macpherson Public Limted Company was registered by the Registree of Company of the State December
1988.

1988.
Dated the 20th day of Dacember 1988
Stephenson Harwood
One St. Paul's Churchyard
LONDON EXAM 5684
Solictions for the above natived Company

Solicitors for the above named Company
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
NO. 006492 OF 1988
IN THE MATTER OF RACAL TELECOM
PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY
AN THE MATTER OF THE
COMPANIES ACT 1986
NOTICE is hereby given that the Order of
the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 5th December 1988 CONFIRMING THE REPUICTION of the
amount standing to the credit of the Share
Premium Account of the above hamed
Racal Telecom Public Limited Company
by 1229-377 OOG was registered by the
Registrar of Companies on the 8th December
1988

Registrar of Companies on the Bth December 1988 Dated the 20th day of December 1988 Stephanson Hafwood

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF: MARTINS SHOPFITTERS LIMITED TABLE MORISON PHOTOGRAPHICS LIMITED

MORISON PHOTOGRAPICS LIMITED

MORISON SON & JONES INTERNATRONAL LIMITED 106679

SUPERLATIVE RECORDS INTERNATRONAL LIMITED 106679

SUPERLATIVE RECORDS INTERNATRONAL LIMITED 1106679

SUPERLATIVE RECORDS INTERNATRONAL LIMITED 115000

TACOTHERM INTERNAL LIMITED 115000

TACOTHERM INTERNAL LIMITED 115000

TACOTHERM INTERNAL LIMITED 115000

TO IS DECEMBER 1988 the companies were placed in maintery voluntary liquidation on 150 December 1988 the companies were placed in maintery voluntary liquidation of John Francis Soden of Price waterhunse. No I Lopdon Bridge London SSI 901, was appointed intriductor by the enalestholders. The loudator dives notice pressured to relate 1882A of the insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the companies must send details. In writing, of any claim spains the companies to the liquidator, alter above address by 27 January 1980 which is the last day for proving claims the above address by 27 January 1980 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that be will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution. The companies are able to pay all known creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution. The companies are able to pay all known creditors to full.

JF Soden - Lightidator
Deed 15 December 1988

MOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF:
SEEDAL LABORATORIES - 1181566

CONTINET TO THE CREDITORS OF:
SEEDAL LABORATORIES - 1181566

CHI MARRIAL LIMITED - 102 2137

(8t) TO RESERVE OF THE PRISES LIMITED - 103 2137

(8t) TO RESERVE OF THE PRISES LIMITED - 103 1176

CHI MARRIAL LIMITED - 102 137

(8t) TO RESERVE OF THE PRISES LIMITED - 103 1176

CHI MARRIAL LIMITED - 109 137

(8t) TO RESERVE OF THE PRISES LIMITED - 109 137

(8t) TO RESERVE OF THE PRISES LIMITED - 109 137

(8t) TO RESERVE OF THE PRISES LIMITED - 109 137

(8t) TO RESERVE OF THE PRISES LIMITED - 109 137

(8t) TO RESERVE OF THE PRISE

SEI 9QL was appointed liquidation by the shareholders.

The Ilquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4 182A of the brachwine; Rules 1986 that the creditors of the completure must send details. In writing, of any claim assured the late of the properties of the brackets in a straing 1986 which the showe address by 27 January 1986 which the showe address by 27 January 1986 which the showe address by 27 January 1986 which the should be a straing the should be propertied to the should be should be should be succeeded to the distribution. The companies are she to pay all known creditors to full.

J F Saden Liquidate; Date 1988

BUILLERS WHARF LIMITED

Daed 16 December 1988

BUTLERS WHARF LIMITED

Notice is hereby given pursuant to section
176 Companies Act 1985 that:
(a) the above named Company has approved a payment out of castlar for the
purpose of redeeming its own sharest
(b) the amount of the permissible capital proved a payment out of capture for we purpose of redesting its own shares; the amount of the permissible capital oayment is 58.000,000 in respect of the redestingtion at his of the 8.000,000 risued Redestingtion at his of the 8.000,000 risued Redestingtion at his of the 8.000,000 risued Redestingtion at his original to respect of such redissipption was passed at an Extraordinary Central Meeting of the Company held on 20 December 1986:

1988: 1988: If the state of the company and the report of Meastra thirr Andersen & Co., satisfiers to the Company, addressed to the Direction of the Company and resulted by section 173 Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection on any week day (Saturday and public Polidays excepted until 34 Jamasry 1989 at the registered office of the Company at: 196 Tottamian Court Road London WIP 9LP and

London WIP 9LD
and
(d) a creeke immediately following 20 December 1986 apply to the court under
section 176 Company may, within
a worder prohibiting the beginned.
BY GRUER OF THE BOARD
R A FRIMENIOTE SECTION 1986
BY THE BURER OF THE BOARD
N THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANGERY DIVISION
N THE MIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANGERY DIVISION
N THE MATTER OF JMD GROUP PLC IN THE MATTER OF JEMD GROUP PLC
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IN THE MATTER OF JEMPANIES

NOTICE IS HEREBY CIVEN that the Or
ter of the High Court of Justice (Chancery
Division) deand city December, 1988 core
Inviting the reduction columning the action
in the High Court of Jempany
Court of Jempanies

Notice S. 250, OS to ESTO, DOO and the
Minuste supproved by the Court showing
with respect to the courts of the Company
as altered the several particulars required
by the Shove mentioned Act were registered by the Shove mentioned Act were registered by the Shove mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on
16th December 1988
Daired this 22nd day of December 1988
Wide Sayle.
Ousensbridge House.
Ou Upper Thames Street
London ECAV 380,
Solicitor's for the above mentioned
Company

Cranes of Cardiff Ltd

Established 1851

THE GREAT JANUARY PIANO SALE

Over 100 Pianos in stock - all at reduced prices!!

GRAND PIANOS

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LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
IN THE BRISTOL COUNTY COURT
IN BANKEUPTCY
NO. 189 OF 1988
TO: MARTYN FORTER ALSO KNOWN
AS NECL HAMMOND
BOUTHWOLD
BOUTHESTREAM

BOUTH-WOLL)
BOURNE STREAM
WOTTON-LINDES-EDGE
GLOVESTERS-MRE
TAKE NOTICE that the Court ordered on
12 December 1988 that you be adjudged
bankrupt and that the Court further ordered on 16 December 1988 that you atend for your public Examination at 10.00
a.m on Friday 13 January 1989 at Bristol
County Court. Court No. 6. The Old Council Hoose. Corn Street. Bristol and that
substituted service of the Order for your
Public Examination be effected by adverincernent in the Times Newsjaaper and that
such advertmenent shall be deemed in be
service of the Order upon you four days
after multication.
it. without resonable excuse, you fad to
althoid your Public Examination at the
date. three and blace set out above, you
will be guilty of a contemb of Oruri and
table to be committed to present or fised.
You will also be table to be arrested without further middle. out further notice, volume, employ a solicitor, at you may, at your own embane, employ a solicitor, with or without coursel, who may but to you such questions at the Court teap allow for the purpose of employed by you and to make representations on your lebality any answers given by you and to make representations on your lebality. W C N DICKINSON Official Receiver & Colsion Avettine
Bristol BSI 48N

COMPANIES FORM NO. 600A
Notice of appointment of liquidator
(Members)Creditors)
voluntary wholing up
Pursuant to section 109 of the
Insolvency Act 1986
Company number: 2052724. Name of
company Appleance of England Limited.
Privitous name of Company: Delenstural
Limited, Nature of business: Shote Massifacturers. Address of registered effice:
Price Waternotse. 9 Bond Court, Leeds.
LS1 25N. Lieudators name and address:
Roger Marsh. Price Waternotse, 9 Bond
Court, Leeds. LS1 25N. Gay Carristopher
Sext Bater. Erms at Withman, Provincial
House, 37 New Walls. Letester, L21 6Tu.
Date of appointment: 12 December 1985.
By whom appointed: Members and
Creditors

Creditors R Marsh and Q C S Baker

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTREE is hereby given pursuants to \$27 of the THLSTEE ACT. 1905 that any person having a CL All against or an interest person having a CL All against or an interest to the ESTATE of any of the decreased persons whose names, addresses and describitions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars to writing of fide claim or interest to the person or persons reputationed in relation to the decreased person concerned before the date specified after which date the estate of the decreased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the personal representatives among the personal representatives among the persona extinct the personal representatives and interests of which they have had notice.

STRAFFORD Lawrence Course, of

had notice.

ETRAFFORD Lawrence George of Charleson Manour Residential Home.

Another of Manour Residential Home.

Established Home.

Extraction of Control of Control of the Control of t FUERST Henry Reginald, of 174 Boulevard Malesherbes, 76017 Parts, France, died on 28th September 1988, Particulars to Cifford Chance, Solicitus of Blackfriars House, 19 New Bridge Street, London EC4V 68Y before 28th February 1989.

1989.

CLARIDCE Mrs Beetrics Mory. of Fist 6.
Hollam Court, 77 Halbam Street, London
W1 uted on 28th January 1989 Paritolars to Charles Russell Williams & James
Solicitors of Hair Court, Lincoln's Inn.
London WC2A SUL, before 27 February
1989. February 1989
LEVY Vetta of 20 Burtington Street.
Brighlon East Sussetz formerly of 19
Vaughan Avenue London NW4, died on
23rd April 1988 Particulars to Michael
Coun & Co Solictions of 24 Queen Annie
Street. London W1M OAX, before 27th
February 1989

£21,348 £15,137 £18,000 £17,600 £11,000 £11,853 £10,750 £1,853 £10,750 £3,972 £3,399 £3,099

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Cranes Chippendale 172

Parker Knoll

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Continued on page 25

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Small gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 12. Dealings end today. §Contango day December 28. Settlement day January 9. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

est market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 16).

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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Hophrace Howden Husting / Husting (Husting (

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Maci-Lyunz (a Bass (ant) Bultarum Boddington Suchings Bulture (di 7) Bulture (di

BUILDING, ROADS

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

DRAPERY, STORES

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4	Swire Pacific 'A'	Industrials S-Z			
5	Bibby (J)	Industrials A-D			
6	Tex Hidgs	Industrials S-Z			
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7	Church	Drapery,Stores Industrials S-2			
8	Trafalgar Hise (an)				
9	Richard (Leica)	Industrials L-R			
10	Amstrad (22)	Electricals			
ш	Sycamore	Industrials S-Z			
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13	Rush & Tompkins	Property			
14	CH Ind	Industriels A-D			
15	Lon Inti	Industrials L-R			
16	Bridgend Gp	Industrials A-D			
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18	Concentric	Industrials A-D			
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21	TI	Industrials S-Z			
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25	Bearer PLC (as)	Industrials A-D			
26	Lon Shop	Property			
27	Mecca Leisure	Leisure			
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29	Tie Rack	Drapery,Stores			
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| BANKS, DISCOUNT HP | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 | 1986 |

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C 8 13

463 215 Alexan Day
70 21 Another Day
106 61 Agreement X
106 61 Agreement X
106 61 Agreement X
107 107 Another Clause
107 107 Another Clau **ELECTRICALS**

HOTELS, CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS A-D

S-Z

45 2336

Due to technical difficulties at Extel Financial, a restricted number of price gains and losses are shown, for the benefit of Portfolio players.

TOBACCOS

MONEY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 24 1988

Executive Editor David Brewerton





Miss World went up while Mrs Fields went down. Cliff Feltham plots the winners and losers, page 17

Brickbats and bouquets. Graham Searjeant's afternative honours list, in The Times on Monday.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8005 (+0.0015)

W German mark 3.1986 (+0.0090) Trade-weighted 77.4 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1436.2 (+3.8) FT-SE 100 1774.0 (+5.3) Bargains 10369

USM (Datastream) 146.41 (+0.44)

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 2169.11 (+8.75)*
Toloro
Nikkel Average . 29686.26 (-88.35)
Hong Kong: Hang Seng 2656.59 (+13.86)
Amsterdam: Gen 284.2 (~0.1)
Sydney: AO 1484.1 (+0.9)
Frankfurt
Commerzbank 1645.7 (+2.8)
Brussels: General
Paris: CAC
Zurich: SKA Gen 514.9 (43.6)

London: FT.-A All-Share FT.- "500" ndon: ,—A All-Share 915.52 (+2.1) ,— "500" 996.49 (+2.34) , Gold Mines 163.3 (-0.8) , Fixed interest 95.70 (-0.05) , Goyt Secs 87.46 (+0.08) FT. Gold Mines FT. Govt Secs ...

SEAQ Volume ...

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 13% 3-month Interbank 13-1275-9% 3-month eligible bills:1251e-12%% 3-month engulse bias:12*16*12*3% buyang rate
US: Prime Rate 10%% Fedoral Funds 8%%
3-month Trassury Bias 8.05-8.04%*
30-year bonds 1002*2=100%*

CURRENCIES

ondon:	New York:
: \$1.8005	£: \$1.8005"
: DM3.1986	\$: DM1.7750"
: SWFr2.8971	\$: SWFr1.4980
: FFr10.9047	\$: FFr6.0525"
: Yen224.34	\$: Yen124.80"
: Index:77.4	\$: Index:94.3
CU E0.649295	SDR 20.74744

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$417.55 pm-\$n/a close \$417.50-418.00 (£232.00-232.50)

New York: Comex \$417.00-417.50*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb.) pm \$15.07bbl (\$15.27)
Denotes latest trading price



 Stockwatch gives instant access to more than 10,000 share, unit trust and bond prices, including a special British Steel line on 0898 121269. The information you require is on the following telephone

numbers: Stock market comment: general market 0898 121220; company news 0898 121221; active shares 0898 121225 Calls charged at 5p for

8 seconds peak and 12 oership. The City found it thin on seconds off peak inc. additional details on bow the GEC-Siemens relationship will work and how the Plessey

Trade deficit narrows but sterling fears remain

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

Britain's current account deficit narrowed last month from the record level of October. The figures came as a relief to the markets and eased immediate worries about a further rise in base rates but analysis gave warnings that unless there is an early improvement in the trade position next year, ster-liog will come under serious

The current account was in deficit by £1.61 billion last month, after the upward-revised record deficit of £2.53 billion in October. The deficit for the first 11

"The immediate message from these figures is that sterling will not come under pressure over the Christmas period and base rates do not need to rise in the short term," said Dr Gerard Lyons, economist at SBCI-Savory Milln.

This exceeds the forecast for the full year made by the Chancellor in his autumn statement, when he predicted a £13 billion deficit. The City expects a £15 billion deficit for the year, equivalent to about 31/4 per cent of gross domestic product. Exports rose by £163 million to

In the September-November period, the volume of exports was 2.5 per cent up on the previous three months and 4 per cent up oo a year earlier. Excluding oil and the erratic items of trade, exports rose by 3.5 per cent in the latest three

The main improvement in the current account was, however, due to a sharp drop in imports, which fell to £8.94 billion from £9.69 billion in October.

Even so, import trends remain strong. In the latest three months, import volumes were 16 per cent

months of the year was £13.38 using the steady growth rate of up on a year earlier, four times the billion. upon a year earlier, four times the growth rate of exports. deficit at the moment," said Mr Ian growth rate of exports. growth rate of exports.

The visible trade deficit of £2.01 billion last month compared with £2.93 billion in October. The £400 millioo estimated surplus on invisibles was smaller than in recent months because of a change in the timing of payments to the

European Economic Community. The City reacted to the figures with relief. Foreign exchange dealers were able to close their books with sterling balanced at about \$1.80, and there was little activity in the money markets.

"The figures were in line with what we judge to be the underlying

Harwood, economist at Warburg Securities. "It is conceivable that the deterioration in the balance of payments is coming to an end, but there is no sign of any improve-

Mr Bill Martin, chief UK economist at UBS-Phillips & Drew, said: One disturbing feature of these figures was the extent of the deterioration during the course of the year. The deficit is running at an annual rate of £18 billion and I can't see how we can contioue to run deficits of this size without

encounteriog pressure oo sterling." The Treasury's autumn state-

ment prediction was for a narrowing of the deficit to £11 billion oext year, on the basis of a sharp drop in import growth and a much stronger pace of growth of exports. With the autumn statement forecast for this year already exceeded, barring revisions to the data, the financial markets are highly doubtful about the Chancellor's forecast improvement for 1989.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development this week predicted a continuing widening of the current account deficit, alongside an inflation rate io Britaio beating other major economies, including Italy.

Irish stake in Unigate spurs new bid talk

By John Bell, City Editor

Mr Larry Goodman, a meat trader and one of Ireland's wealthiest men, has emerged as the holder of almost 8 per cent of Unicate, the dairy products and transport group.

Mr Goodman is a "rags to riches" businessman almost unknown in the City. He left school in Co Louth in the Irish Republic at the age of 14, and Europe's largest meat process-ing business and is said to be a multi-millionaire.

comes after several weeks of bid speculation which has three months, gained a further 2½p to 332p. In just over a week they have risen from about 287p on rumours of an overseas bid.

Analysts view Unigate as now "in play" as a target for a hostile approach and say the company could become the subject of the first big takeover battle of the New Year. Almost 7 million Unigate shares were traded in yesterday's half-day session.

Unigate has a portfolio of brands, like St Ivel dairy products, which are likely to be attractive to a bidder ahead of 1992. Its other interests include Wincanton transport, Giltspur exhibitions and US

Mr Goodman's stake, held

£26m for

petition agreements.

power-boat field.

The high price reflects the magazine's hefty profits, expected to reach \$4.4 million

this year. The acquisition is

through Reed's US subsidiary.

Mr Ron Segel, the subsidiary's

president, said the magazine

with MotorBoat, due to

appear in February, would give Reed full coverage of the

through his private company, Goodman International, of Ardee, Co Louth, was discovered during routine monitoring of its share register by Unigate, But his strategy is

He has granted a five-year option over his stake and any other Unigate shares be may buy to Food Industries, a tiny Dublin-quoted grain and malt concern, where he controls 70 per cent of the equity. Food industries is unlikely to bid, so worked as a messenger on building sites. At 19 he spent findustries is unlikely to bid, so fixed on at 47, he owns passing the stake on at a profit. sing the stake on at a profit. Mr Goodman is a very private man, who lives with his wife Kitty and two children at The disclosure of his stake Brackerstown House, a period

Castle Bellingham in Co His meat interests alone are chases in recent weeks.

branched out of meat into grain and also succeeded. despite fierce competition, in taking over Bailieboro Co-op, the largest dairy farmers' cooperative in Ireland.

Mr Goodman recently bought a 13-seater private jet and is believed to be the only Irish civilian allowed to fly into the Irish military base at Baldoooel. He is having a private hangar built at Dublin Airport and until now has been a keen anti-terrorist Special Criminal

witness when terrorists had hijacked one of his beef lorries. He had spotted one of the raiders and chased him over the Ulster border in his

Mr John Worby, Unigate's finance director said it has been watching the build-up of the bolding for some time and had served a number of. Section 212 disclosure notices. "It was not until this week that the bolding became substantial," he added.

Just before 9 am yesterday, Unigate announced to the Stock Exchange that Mr Goodman and companies controlled by him had acresidence on 600 acres near quired 4.97 per cent of its equity. Later, Mr Goodman revealed that his stake was linked Unigate with the French group BSN, Kraft Inc. and a Danish consortium. In the offal "run," he moved Unigate shares, which have outpaced the market by more than 20 per cent over the past than 20 per cent over th meat-processing plants on said the shares had been both sides of the Irish border. bought through market pur-

> said to turn over almost £1 Food analysts said they billion a year, or 3 per cent of were not surprised that some-Ireland's total gross national one had built up a stake in product. Last year he Unigate. Mr Charles Mills of the broker James Capel said: "Judging by the recent volume in Unigate there had to be more than just punting going

Mr Goodman is believed to have spent about £54 millioo on his stake. At current prices Unigate is capitalized at more than £760 million and a bidder would have to put up at least £1 billion.

Its static profits have made it a targer. It made £104 helicopter pilot. He ooce millioo in the trading year found himself in Dublin's ending io 1987 and £94 millioo last year.

Swoops to conquer: Helicopter-loving Larry Goodman (left) with Brian Britton, his company's financial executive director leaves North Sea **Assets**

By David Young Energy Corres

Sir Ian MacGregor, the former head of both British Steel and British Coal, has resigned as chairman of North Sea Assets, which specializes in offering services to the big oil companies.

Sir Ian's resignation was announced in Edinburgh - he is in the United States with his family for Christmas - toeether with those of four other non-executive directors.

Mr David James, North Sca Assets' acting chairman, refused to claborate on the resignations which were described as arising from "disagreements relating to certain shareholder interests and intentions." Mr James was appointed late last year as chairman of an executive committee charged with restructuring NSA.

The company will hold its annual meeting in Edinburgh next week when the resignations will be explained, but it is thought that the non-executive directors and Sir Ian disagreed with various restructuring proposals put for- per cent, giving Saur a spring- through parliament. ward to move the company

into profit next year.

Mr James said that while there have been disagreements, the past year has been successful with asset values increased. He said that only Sir Ian's reputation has made his resignation noteworthy.

A policy of divestment has converted debts of £24 million to cash in the bank in the past

MacGregor Saur's £15m water bid set to boil up battle at Southern

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Saur, the water supply division of Bouygues, the Southern's 35.5 per cent. French construction group, has made an agreed £15 million takeover bid for the Eastbourne statutory water company that seems certain to start another battle with the Southern Water Authority.

Southern Water owns 29.9 per cent of Eastbourne and through an agreement with Mr Duncan Saville, the Australian financier, has support from a further 5.6 per cent. Southern was cleared to own shares in water companies through a High Court ruling oo Wednesday although the Water Companies Association, which brought the ac-

By contrast, Saur owns no shares but has won support. Equity & Law, the Frenchowned life assurance group, which owns 28.7 per cent of Eastbourne voting shares, has pledged itself to the Saur offer. Directors and management of Eastbourne have also irrevocably accepted for a further 4.9

tion, is to appeal.

brink of success at Bejam By Martin Waller board of 33.6 per cent to

The price of £30 for each of

Eastbourne's 500,000 voting

shares values the company at

served. This may tempt the

Water Companies Associatioo

pensioo fund, which owns a

further 7 per cent. Much of the

rest of the voting capital is

held by 270 individuals, many

Saur has already made

agreed bids for the West Kent

and Mid Sussex statutory

companies in which Southern

owns large stakes. Southern is

expected to oppose and seek to

block all three bids. The court

judgment suggested that a

water authority could take

over a statutory company but

might face burdles such as a

public inquiry if the bid was

Saur's bid came as a sur-

prise because it apparently

breaches an unofficial White-

hall moratorium on bids im-

posed during the passage of

water privatization legislation

opposed locally.

of them local people.

£72 per head of population

Iceland Frozen Foods was last night within a whisker of claiming victory in its £234 million bid for its freezer centre rival Bejam, with acceptances from 49.5 per cent of Bejam shares.

Iceland on

Its offer has now been extended until I pm next Friday.

It announced this week it had crossed the 43 per cent mark, and a last-migute surge of acceptances yesterday took it to the brink of success,

Bejam has fought the bid every step of the way and its founding shareholder, Mr John Apthorp, who with his family has about 30 per cent, has said he would not accept. But recent brokers' advice to chents has warned that the Bejam share price could fall drastically if the bid fails, and this may have swung the market.

Bejam shares were 1p higher at 1660 as the market closed yesterday. The package on offer from Iceland Frozen Foods is worth about 184p.

Reed to pay **US** magazine

By Vivien Goldsmith, Family Money Editor

Reed International is paying \$47 millioo (£26 million) for Power and Motoryacht, a moothly US magazine with a circulation of 150,000. It is paying \$36 million in cash for the title and assets and another \$11 million on completion for non-com-

second highest month ever - to £766 million. Some blame can be attributed to the British Steel flotation but a rise in bank interest rates also had a dampening effect. Until Sept-ember and the postal strike, net monthly receipts for the year had been running at an average of £1,220 million.

The building societies have bank base rates brought a reported dismal business in sharp fall in receipts, partly November with net receipts offset by abnormally high tumbling and further evidence figures for October.

Net receipts fell from Octo- with banks putting up savers' ber's £1,583 million — the rates far higher than the rates in response.

Net new commitment figures fell from £3,588 millioo in October to £3,445 million in November.

But the strike and a rise in

Bank interest rise hits building society saving

of the house market slow-

Bank base rates rose again

towards the end of last month building societies, which are only just beginning to raise

This cootinued the downward trend since the summer when interest rates began to

Plessey hits at offer document in £1.7bn hostile bid



Siemens would overcome the told by the US Treasury

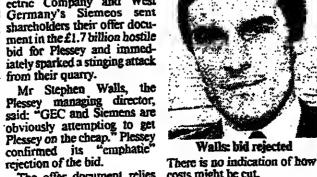
competitive problems posed Department that after dis-



Lord Weinstock's General Electric Company and West Germany's Siemeos sent shareholders their offer document in the £1.7 billion hostile bid for Plessey and immediately sparked a stinging attack from their quarry. Mr Stephen Walls, the

obviously attempting to get Plessey on the cheap." Plessey confirmed its "emphatic" rejection of the bid. The offer document relies heavily on arguments to create a significant European part-

interests could be developed.



costs might be cut.

Mr Walls said it shed little further light on the practicality of implementing the bid. Plessey shareholders deserved a clear, rational account of how GEC and ship, he added. But the document does

business in defence electron- decision. ics. This is clearly intended to reassure the Ministry of Defence that there will cootinue

competition which largely led ther the new bid should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has still to be decided. But another possible regu-

latory hurdle to the bid ap-

pears to have been removed.

Department it had been decided not to investigate the make clear how much of a bid on security grounds. The "hands-off" approach there companies are waiting for will be to Plessey's British written confirmation of the The Plessey UK defence

electronics business will operate as a free-standing entity to be competition between the comprising a separate source Plessey operation and GEC's of supply for the MoD, the document says, "Effective It was the MoD's worries on arrangements will be made to insulate the tendering and to the quashing of GEC's marketing activities of Plesearlier bid for Plessey. Whesey's business from influence or control from GEC or Siemens." It will continue to have its own independent research and development

capability. The possibility of merging Plessey's and GEC's electronic GEC and Siemens have been components businesses will be studied, as will technical col-

Andrew to the state of the stat

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Lyndean House, 43–46 Queens Road, Brighton BN1 3XB. Tel: (0273) 821177. Fax: (0273) 821296 ed Income Bond is a fixed term contract and Liberty Life Assurance Company Led arangee the return of the total investment on early surrender other than on death.



STOCK MARKET

Mystery buyer stalks Ultramar

Christmas cheer for the board of Ultramar, the besieged the word went around that a mystery buyer was the shares.

He is known to have snapped up a line of 2 million shares, or almost 1 per cent of the equity, at 290p a share just above the market price. Warburg Securities, the broker, was said to have carried out the business. Ultramar ended the shortened day 5p higher at 289p as about 5

million shares were traded. It is believed that the mys-

Tiphook, the trailer and container rental group, was still benefiting from n 73 per cent rise in interim profits reported this week and recovered an early fall to finish all-square at 416p. County NatWest WoodMac, the broker, points out that the shares stand at a discount

tery buyer was a wealthy Canadian, Mr Marcel Dutil, the head of Noverco which is part of a consortium - including Unigesco, another Ca-nadian company and Banque Paribas, the French bank which already holds 4.3 per cent of the shares. It is thought that Mr Dutil would like to get his hands on Ultramar's eastern Canadian retail operation. Dealers are now preparing

- and with some justification. Sir Ron Brierley, the New independent oil explorer, as Zealand businessman, has built up a 14.1 per cent stake in Ultramar and he may be a willing seller at about the 300p level. There is even speculation that the consortium and Sir Ron have already had talks about a possible deal.

Meanwhile, Ultramar has completed the purchase of the Wilmington Refinery in California, paying \$466.3 million (£259 million). The rest of the equity

market spent a predictably subdued time on the last trading day before the sea-sonal break. The November trade figures turned out to be in line with expectations, showing a current account deficit of £1.6 billion. Sentiment was helped by this news but few investors appeared willing to open new positions. This was reflected in the

day's turnover of just 186.4 million shares. The FT-SE 100 index made a hesitant start but closed 5.3 points np at 1.774.0.

The narrower FT index of 30 shares also recovered a fall of 0.6 to finish 3.8 points higher at 1,436.2. Government securities

closed with gains of £1/2 at the longer end. The confirmation on Thursday that Barclays de Zoete

Wedd, the broker, had been

FTA INDEX (rebased) STOREHOUSE: candidate for **New Year** bid JAN FER MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DE

Asher Edelman, the American and Richard shops combine. corporate raider, in connection with his 5.6 per cent stake to 190p, after 191p, on a in Storehouse, prompted renewed speculative buying of Sir Terence Conran's BHS,

appointed the adviser to Mr Habitat-Mothercare. Heal's The shares moved up 51/pp turnover of nearly 5 million

BZW is already understood

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES Apolio Metals (58p)
Apolio Watch (58p)
BMSS (118p)
Bardon Group
Bettom (82p)
Bletchley Motor (200p)
Bettchley Motor (200p)
Bostrom (135p)
Brit Steel P/P (60p)
Bucknall Aust (110p)
Builder Gp (125p)
Chieftain Group (92p)
Compess Group
Com-Tek 18 1-(2p)
Darby Group (115p)
Dawsongroup (154p)
EW Fact (84p)
Edinburgh Hilbernian (55
Haemocall (85p)
Hidong Estate

18¹2 138 147

Kromagraphic (10p)
Metro Radio (110p)
Metro Radio (110p)
Mat Telecom (120p)
Panning Research
Portminion Pots (180p)
Racal Telecom (170p)
Riva (110p)
Sandell
Sector Tausi Secure Trust Unit Group (140p) Venture Plant RIGHTS ISSUES

Hayden Mecalian N/P Lees J N/P Pael N/P Res Hotels N/P Woodingtons N/P (Issue price in brackets). of big British remilers including Woolworth and Burton - to gauge the level of interest in making a bid for

The presence of several other significant shareholders on Storehouse's register has kept dealers on their toes throughout the year. Mr David Rowland, the head of Inoco, the revamped property group, recently revealed a 4 per cent stake while Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, and Mr Tony Clegg, the head of the Mountleigh property group, both still cling on to long-standing interests of roughly 3 per cent each.

The Barclay brothers. David and Frederick, who recently sold the JW Cameron and Tollemache & Cobbold brewing chains to Brent Walker for £248 million, are said to have secretly built up a stake of about 3 per cent, believing that something will happen soon. Storehouse became even

more vulnerable to a bid in November when it reported poor interim results which showed pre-tax profits 30 per cent down at £23.6 million. Most people now think that

Sir Terence, who rejected a pre-crash bid of 440p a share off an andacious bid from from Mountleigh and staved Benlox, the mini-conglom-

erate, could find biraself confronted with another hostile

Unigate, the dairy products and transport group, which has been a strong performer in the run-up to Christmas on stake-building stories, moved up 34p more to 3321pp following the news that Mr Laurence Goodman, the chairman of Goodman International, an Irish meat trading group, has acquired a 9 per cent holding in the company. News of Mr Goodman's

interest came as a surprise to

the market which had been

Another exciting year awaits shareholders of Blue Arrow. The price rallied 2p to 86 1/2p on a turnover of 3 million shares. Dealers are forecasting a bid for the troubled employment agency in the New Year. The

much talked about management bayout could materialize a lot sooner.

expecting the buyer to come from abroad. About 20 per cent of Unigate's issued capital has changed hands this week and the shares have risen from about the 285p level amid intense speculation of stake-building by such com-panies as Kraft of the US and BSN of France.

> Michael Clark and **Geoffrey Foster**

refining and marketing petwork in Canada, and its Beacan subsidiary, have been building filling stations in Los Angeles. Synapse buys French deal

consultancy Synapse Computer Services. the systems software specialist, is paying £340,000 in cash from existing company resources for Westwood Information Technology, a consultancy which advises companies on investment in computers. Its customers inclade British Airways, British Telecom, Prudential Corporation and the Bank of

at Hartons

Hartons Group, the Nottingham plastics company, has sold the wholesale division of Auxiglass, its French subsid iary, which specializes in the sale of products to the gianing industry, to Dow Corr ing industry, to Dow Corning Construction for FFr18 mil lion (£1.64 million). There is a further trademark licens ing fee of about FFr9.1 million payable over the next

Shell takes shale stake

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Wilmington purchase

Ultramar, the British oil company, has completed the purchase of the Wilmington Oil refinery in Los Angeles,

which gives its Beacon marketing subsidiary a foothold in the

lucrative and fast growing West Coast market.
Wilmington has cost Ultramar \$462 million (£256 million)

including over \$30 million for stocks of crude oil and relined

products. Ultramar is understood to have beaten off blds from

several international oil companies for the refinery. BP has also moved into the West Coast by taking coast of the former Mobil refinery and marketing chain in Washington State in a complex deal. Ultramar, which already has a strong

Ultramar completes

Shell of Australia has bought a 41.66 per cent interest in the Yaamha and Herbert Creek oil shale deposits in Queensland from Peabody Australia. The purchase price was not

Ysamba Basin reserves are estimated at 4.1 billion barrels of shale oil, based on an average grade of 95 litres per tonne of shale. The partners are now Shell and Peabody with 41.66 per cent each and the Southern Pacific Petroleum group with 16.66 per cent. Shell said Yaamba's oil shale could in time become a viable source of liquid hydrocarbons as processing technologies improve and oil prices rise.

Simon sales raise £4.6m

made two small disposals as part of its concentration on its core activities following expansion of its access platform businesses. PMC Carbon is being sold to its management for £1.6 million. Simon is also selling Simon-Rosedowns for £3 million cash to Companie Financiere De Smet, a Belgian company.

CSR energy

Simon Engineering has CSR, the Australian group, is selling its CSR Petrole to Australian Gas Light for an initial Aus\$102 million (£48.34 million). Another Aus\$20 million will follow for CSR's interest in the Denison Trough joint ven-ture with CSR Petroleum. A final sum, up to Ans\$14 million, will be paid for a contract to supply Denison gas to Queensland Alumina.

Tamaris acquisition

Tamaris, the nursing homes group, is buying Dormy House, in Sunningdale, Berkshire, for £2.7 million in cash. Dormy House, originally built as a golf clubhouse on the edge of Smuningdale Golf Course, is the sole asset of Care Homes (UK), in which Tamaris has a 47 per cent stake.

Tamaris has had a close relationship with Dormy House in the past. It was converted into a nursing home and rehabilitation centre with 69 beds by Care Homes, and began operating in February. Five further beds are to be provided, but it has not yet reached profitable levels of occupancy, says

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP_

Appletree shares jump 25p as 'for sale' sign goes up

shire, has been put up for sale snacks producer, to coincide by a group of shareholders with a full listing. speaking for more than 70 per cent, after several preliminary by the effects of poor weather approaches were received.

The shares jumped 25p to competitive snacks market, 170p on the news, which was accompanied by pre-tax profits for the year to October 2 of £1.5 million, up from £1.07 lion in October this year. million. They were heavily influenced by an acquisition Hunters lost £1.22 million and a disposal.

A successful bid for Appletree, probably from one of the was Kildare, an Irish meat expansion-hungry food con-glomerates, would bring to a bought in November last year, close the group's complicated and chequered history since it The core fresh produce comjoined the USM in June 1985, panies chipped in just Last year, Appletree, found-£880,000.

ed by Mr David Johnson, a The sale of Hunters marked increase of 25 per cent.

The marriage was blighted on the potato harvest and the and Hunters was sold to Dalgety, which already owned Golden Wonder, for £10 mil-

In the last financial year

The important profit-earner bought in November last year, which made £2.62 million.

Appletree Holdings, the food Fenland farmer, merged with the end of Mr Johnson's full-group based in Northampton-Hunters Foods, a crisps and time involvement with the company. He stepped down as chairman but continued as non-executive deputy

> His 23 per cent of the group beneficially owned, along with another 8.5 per cent in discretionary trusts, is part of the holding now for sale and would be worth £9.5 million at yesterday's share price.

Another 24 per cent is held by Mr John Gunn's British & Commonwealth Holdings, which is sitting on a modest profit on the £4.6 million it paid for the stake in March last year.

> New York (Renter) - Shares gained in early trading with blue chips moderately higher.

> Traders said the rise was on thin volume and may have

> exaggerated the effect of light

buying orders. The Dow Jones Equipment, up 14 at 9614.

Dec 22

Dec 21

Shareholders will be paid a 2.65p final dividend for 1987-88, making a total of 3p, an

Carless licences go to Kelt

The Department of Energy will permit the exploration and production licences held offshore and onshore by Carless to be passed to Kelt, now hidding for Carless.

The approval, with some minor conditions which Kelt must meet, will allow the Kelt pid for Carless to be declared wholly unconditional by next Friday. Soch transfers are normally

nodded through but the holiday period and the Parliamentary recess delayed final approval until yesterday. Kelt confirmed yesterday

changed at 28% and Digital

that it is satisfied with the production licence conditions imposed on it by the Department of Energy and said it can meet them. Kelt expects to issue a statement to the Stock Exchange after Christmas. for clarification of certain was announced.

Shares suspended in BOM Holdings

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Shares in BOM Holdings, points in the circular that we formerly Bristol Oil and Minerals, have been temporarily circular was originally apsuspended until the Stock Exchange is given further information about the £16.4 million rights issue being carried out by the company.

BOM's extraordinary meeting called for yesterday to approve the issue, has been rescheduled for January 5 by which time the company hopes to have been able to leather furniture operations. meet the Stock Exchange request

Mr Richard Bacon, the company's finance director, said yesterday that BOM was not yet aware of what new information the Stock Exchange was seeking.

holders There has been criticism that BOM gave no details when it said the cash will be required to rearrange its oil and gas interests. It is also now more involved in retailing through its kitchens and

sent out to shareholders. The

proved by the Stock Exchange

before going out to share-

BOM is offering sharehold-

ers three shares for every two held or 62 shares for every £1 of convertible loan stock at 24:p each. Half of the issue is being underwritten by the company's brokers. BOM shares were yesterday trading He said: "They have asked at 21/2p when the suspension

WALL STREET TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

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Sharp-eyed investors spot silver linings Stock market traders hoping tried and trusted favourities. Stock market traders hoping tried and trusted favourities. Stock market traders hoping tried and trusted favourities.



were disappointed. The FT Next, saw their share price SE-100 index remained stuck in a narrow band - from 1,694 to 1,878 — and seldom looked like holding the high ground.

investors with a sharp eye.. The best performing shares of the year were again special situations — where entrepreneurs snapped up shell companies as a vehicle for future expansion.

collapse because of trading difficulties and boardroom differences.

Worries over the future of But this did not mean there high street spending cast a were no opportunities for damper over the whole retail But some parts of the econ-

omy continued to encourage investment support. Some, such as Sir Richard Attenborough's Capital Radio, prospered because of booming



Jute firm weaves its way to top performing share

WINNERS AND LOSERS 1988

After 105 years, the littleknown Titagher Jute Factory, founded in 1883 by Dundee iute merchants, and considered permanently confined to the backwaters of the stock market, has romped into the charts as the best performing share of 1988.

Starting the year at just 80p, the shares were suspended in May because the company failed to pay its listing fees. But they soured on their return after news that Mr Reg Brealey, the entrepreneur, had picked up 29 per cent of the shares and was planning a reorganization of the group. They now change hands at

Noble Raredon, which used to be called Gnome Photograpbic, a manufacturer of overhead projectors, took off when the younger sister of Mr Azil Nadir, the Polly Peck chairman, took over. Inves-tors who remembered how Polly Peck rocketed from a few pence to £35 in the three years to 1983 are obviously boping that the family has not lost its magic touch.

According to Datastream which compiled the list for The Times, the best performer among the larger company stocks was Crown Commun ications Group, the result of a merger between Crown TV and Chalford Communications, the commercial radio group with a stake io LBC, the London news station. The whole broadcasting sector has enjoyed a huoyant year as plans for deregulation open up exciting growth prospects.

Capital Radio, Britain's largest independent radio contractor, saw its share price tuned up from 161p to 465p

Bid Offer ching Yld

inder £25m	% rise	Price
Titaghur Jute	544	515p
Noble Raredon	273	143p
ML Labs	244	375p
Scottish Ice Rink	234	84p
Radio City	223	320p
Piccadilly Radio	202	166p
AF BulgirtAss Energy Services	191	102p
Ass Energy Services	164	. 58p
Chepstow Race	163	210.50
Radio Clyde	753	238p
Over £25m	% rise	Price
Crown Communications	381	207p
Whitbread "B"	225	960p
Capital Radio	189	4650
Invergordon Dist	140	403p
Cityvision		99p
Caird Group	127	292p
Explaura Holdings	126	440
Rowlinson Secs		207p
Macallan-Glen		£11.05
Greenall Whitley	119	230p
nder £25m ·	% tall	Price
London & Overseas Freighters	94	0.25p
Parrish		53p
Unigroup	73	46p
Intec.		5p
BOM Holdings		250p
Memcom Int		12p
Pavion Int	67	350p
MARK Comountoes	RA	420

enue. Capital, according to analysts, is expected to bid for of merchandise. a national radio franchise.

Far East Resources

Int City Holdings.

Vivat Holdings

Acsis Group

Greenwich Resources.
Butte Mining

Over £25m

Mrs Fleids

Miss World Group, where strong support spurred by the the ambitious Mr Owen likes of Mr John Ellion, the Oyston and his Red Rose head of Elders IXL, taking a Radio group conducted a number of predatory stakes in reverse takeover, was just British brewers. He finally bid outside the top 10 but its for Scottish & Newcastle shares more than doubled in Breweries. One of the best 428p as it seeks opportunities performers in the sector was for using the Miss World Greenall Whitley, which is

which observers believe is being stalked by a large

But 1988 also had its fair share of casualties, in particular the fall from grace of a number of market favourites. Mrs Fields, the American cookies company arrived on the Unlisted Securities Market two years ago in a fanfare of publicity, but it has been downhill ever since.

The company has been dogshares, sold to London investors at 140p, have now slipped to 33p. Mr Randy Fields, the chairman, arrived in London grim-faced to explain how the company had opened up more than 120 stores in the US which, it has since discovered, were really in the wrong place and had to be closed. On top of that, a heatwave in America put customers off buying cookies. Investors are still nourishing the thoughts of a bid for the company to put them out of their misery.

Few investors would have predicted the dramatic collapse of Next shares, now ignominiously listed among the ten worst performing shares of the year. From 288p in January, the shares have crashed to 135p. The warning of a significant drop in profits eventually led to the departure of Mr George Davies, the company's head and mentor. Rising interest rates have cast a cloud over the future of high street trading

At the end of the day, there will be very few people in the City who will mourn the passing of 1988. A year, it will he recalled, when Big Bang exploded in the face of hundreds of workers in the securities industry who enter 1989 looking for a new job.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

A lesson in regulation when Rico rides into Wall Street

n New York, Drexel Burnham Lambert, America's fifth largest investment house, agreed to plead guilty to six fraud charges brought by the US Government and to pay staggering - but staggered - penalties and fines of \$650 million (£361.31 million).

The move presents a revealing contrast in the methods of the United States with those of Britian to regulate their securities industries - a critical and sensitive area for Mrs Thatcher, bearing in mind the Guinness saga and the Barlow Clowes affair.

Drexel made the biggest single contribution to the latest transformation of corporate America by creating a \$100 billion market in high-yielding, high-risk securities. These "junk bonds" have financed a new breed of entrepreneur in takeover bids on a previously unimagined scale. The key figure in Drezel's remarkable progress and its huge profits during the 1980s is Mr Michael Milken, head of its junk bond operations, who played oo part in the plea bargaining that has led to Drexel's pleading guilty.

Criminal investigations have been lead with cinematic zeal by Mr Rudolph Giuliani, Federal prosecutor for the southern district of New York, which includes Wall Street. But he would be the first to acknowledge the valuable supporting roles of Mr Ivan Boesky, speculator extraordinary, who pleaded guilty in November 1986 to insider dealing — with information supplied by Mr Dennis Levine of Drexel - turned state evidence, paid \$100 million in fines and was sent to prison for three years. Mr Levine by the way, who was alleged to have made \$12.6 million from insider dealing (the



only certain way of making money on the stock market), was fined \$362,000 and given a two-year sentence.

The Manhattan attorney would also testify to the value of America's Organized Crime Cootrol Act of 1970, and in particular to the Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (Rico) section. The words eloquently convey their purpose — to enable government prosecutors in bring mobsters to court before their profits have been laundered or successfully concealed behind legitimate corporate fronts. To prevent their disappearance assets of a "corrupt organization" can be frozen before a trial.

However, the Rico is clearly too useful a weapon to be used only against the mafia and has been found to be very effective against white collar suspects. Princeton/Newport, a small investment firm charged under the Rico section, filed for bankruptcy this month. In November, with the approval of the Department of Justice, Guiliani had Drexel in his Rico sights. Unless Drexel agreed to plead guilty and pay a fine he would ask the court to freeze Drexel assets. He might not have succeeded but he was undoubtedly successful in concentrating the minds of a majority of Drexel's 22-member board who decided it was not worth the

As the Wall Street Journal reported: "The haunting spectre of Rico charges against Drexel made many of the firm's officials desperate to settle. Besides the threat to the officials' personal for-tunes, the financial uncertainty created by such a charge could cause banks to cut Drexel off from funds (\$30 billion short term) it must borrow to finance its operations. Plus a mounting toll of clients (an estimated \$1.5 billion io lost revenue since investigations began) and the active presence of headhunters among the firm's more able people."

To Mr Fred Joseph, the chief executive, anything must have seemed preferable to a long and debilitating trial on broad charges of racketeering and corruption.

But the story of Wall Street's biggest ever securities fraud case does not end there. Drexel's agreement with Mr Guiliani does not give immunity to any individuals and it does not include any provision for Mr Milken, who had no part in the plea bargaining. Furthermore the agreement comes into effect only if the Securities and Exchange Commission accepts that it covers the SEC's civil case against the firm.

In September the SEC accused Drexel, Mr Milken and others with insider trading, stack market manipulation and other breaches of federal securities law. If, by January 15, Drexel has persuaded the SEC to agree that enough is enough, it then has to face the certainty of court actions by investors alleging that the firm's behav-iour has financially harmed them. Part of the agreed £361 million fines and penalties is earmarked as a compensation fund. It is a stiff price to pay for survival but survival is usually preferable to death.

NatWest faces testing time with DTI

e see the opposite end of the spectrum in National Westminster's role in the 1987 acquisition by Blue Arrow of Manpower, the US employ-ment agency group. The Department of Trade, having made some preliminary inquiries in February this year, has finally appointed its own inspectors under section 432 of the Companies Act which gives them power to take evidence under oath and to seize

documents. On the face of it, had the DTI oot been satisfied with the rigor of NatWest's investigation of itself, it was a long time making up its mind (it claims to have done so in October but spent two months in finding the right inspectors) to have an investigation of its own. More material may have come to light which left the DTI no option but

The facts that are publicly known are straightforward. In September 1987 County NatWest Securities, NatWest's merchant banking subsidiary, arranged an £837 million rights issue to finance the takeover of Manpower by Blue Arrow, County's client. The 51 per cent of the issue not taken up by shareholders was, according to County and Phillips & Drew, the brokers, successfully placed. This was not strictly true. County itself had to take up 4.9 per cent and its market-making subsidiary took another 4.6 per cent. Stakes over 5 per cent have to be disclosed.

Io the October crash Blue Arrow shares were almost halved, County revealed it had 9.5 per cent, transferred the 4.6 per cent from the marketmakers to itself and provided £49 million against a loss oo the shares.

At this stage everything seemed to turn on whether County was right in not disclosing immediately the size of its stake. It argued that section 209 of the Companies Act permitted it not to reveal the market-makers' 4.6 per cent stake as it was held for the purpose of market making.

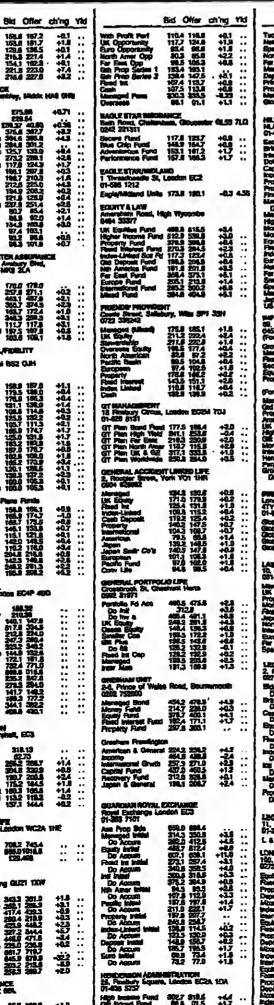
Had County counted in Blue Arrow shares bought for its own discretionary clients, it would have been above the 5 per cent disclosure limit without the market-makers' 4.6 per cent. This mistake apart, Sir Philip's (unpublished) report exonerated County. Whether he was right remains to be

Meanwhile the course events have taken are another blow to NatWest's merchant bank, already reeling from iosses in its securities operation, defections, low morale and, dare I say it, a strategy that does not seem to permeate as far as the people employed to carry it

The DTI investigation is broad in scope and the questions the inspectors are bound to ask about matters like false markets involve the criminal law in ways not dissimilar from another well-known cause célèbre.

Happy Christmas. It may all be resolved in the New Year.

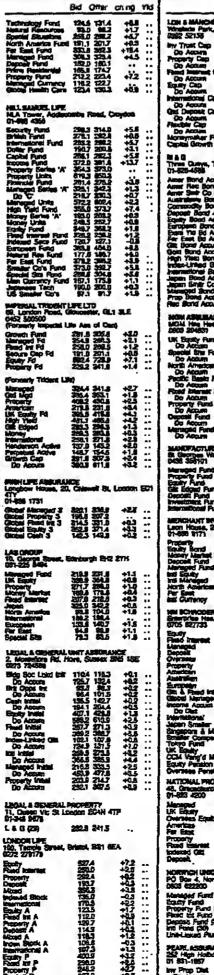
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name on an increasing range

The brewing sector enjoyed







member Little Fred doesn't pay tax. Sue your

under the best advice rule — he suggested the move — and miss a turn.

FAMILY MONEY

Edited by Vivien Goldsmith

For readers who may have ussed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the

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borrowers on annual plans

Higher monthly mortgage repayments have been postponed for a month until February in a move which could make all the difference for the 40 per cent of borrowers on annually set mort-

The Nationwide Anglia, the third largest building society, will have to set the annual rate in the middle of January in order to get the new payments flowing from February 1.

wide to set a new rate for all customers at the same time so the 40 per cent on annual review - nearly 400,000 borrowers - can be put on that rate. But the society may want later in January and will set an arbitrary rate for those nn annual review to reflect the coming further rise without actually matching it.

The Halifax has 70 per cent nf its 1.6 million borrowers on annual review. It said it is in no hurry to announce a new rate before the new year. Those on annual review start paying the new rate in April. The outstanding debt is worked out nn January 31 and

The new rates - probably 13.5 per cent if the current economic climate persists are almost certain to be in force by February.

Those on annual review with the Nationwide Anglia have been paying 10.3 per cent, the rate prevailing at the begining of the year. The rate fell to 9.75 per cent on May 1, rose on August 1 tn 11.5 per cent and to 12.75 per cent on

percentage points for bor- cent.

rowers on annual review.

The monthly payments on a £60,000 repayment mortgage at 10.3 per cent are £499.22, while the payments at 13.5 per cent are £620.35 - a rise nf £121.13 or nearly 25 per cent. Interest payments on a £60,000 endowment mortgage rise from £450.63 at 10.3 per cent to £590.63 at 13.5 per cent - a rise of £140 more than 30 per cent.

The Newcastle Building Pressure will be on Natinn- Society defended its once-ayear change system by saying there have been 19 rate changes since its scheme was introduced in 1982 - nine up and 10 down. The effect of these changes in those seven to delay setting a rate until years has been to increase the capital due to be repaid nn a £10,000 mortgage (the average in 1982) by £30 gross or £21

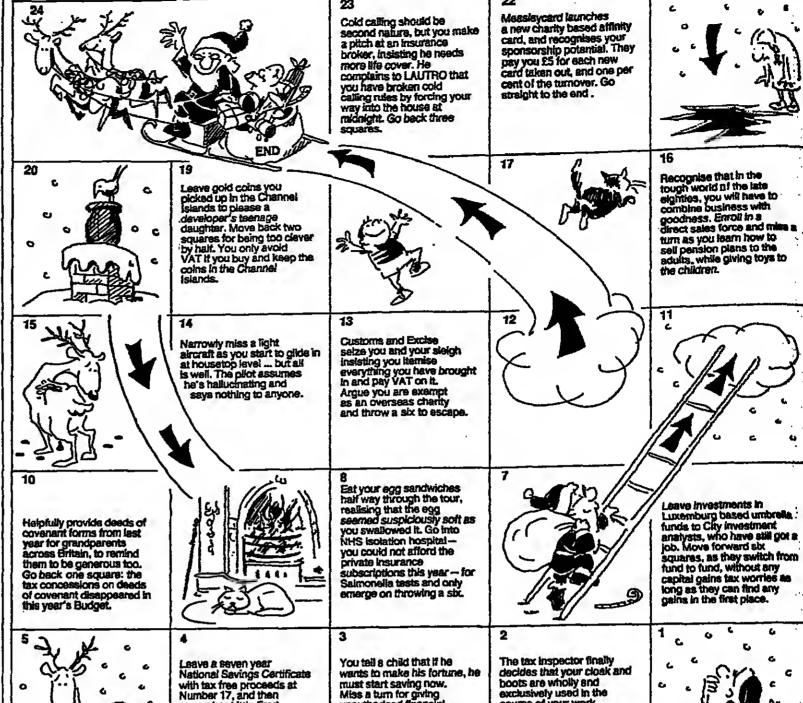
completely any argument about such a system being to the detriment of the borrower. It enables sensible budgeting for a full year."

Other societies such as the Abbey National and Alliance & Leicester are keeping the situation under review. We borrowers receive notice of might not have to make any their new payments during changes at all," said an optimistic spokesman for

> The TSB has put its rates up to 14 per cent for endowment mortgages and 14.2 per cent for repayment mortgages from

Both societies have put up savers' rates. The Alliance & Leicester's top rate on its four months' notice account is now 10.25 per cent nn balances over £25,000, an increase of 0.65 percentage points while the Gold Plus instant access The new rate is likely to account top rate for £25,000 mean a rise of more than three and over moves to 9.25 per

Reprieve for | Speed Santa safely through the snow



NEW HIGHER RATES FROM JANUARY 3RD

Enjoy a Prosperous New Year with Cheltenham Gold

Invest in Cheltenham Gold and you'll be sure of a very prosperous New Year. Our new higher rates make Cheltenham Gold an exceptional investment opportunity and when you compare these 'no strings' rates with other major building societies you'll see just how exceptional.

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ON \$25,000 OR MORE

ON **£5,000** OR MORE

ON £1,000 OR MORE 6% NETON £1 OR MORE

NO NOTICE NO PENALTIES

Instant Access No Penalties

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There's also the added convenience of being able to run your account from the comfort of your home or office, post free, with our C&G By Post Service. Return the coupon today or call in to your local branch and make the most of this golden opportunity.

CHELTENHAM GOLD

To: Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, PO Box 124, FREEPOST, I/WE enclose S______to open a Gold By Post Account (Minimum \$500 Maximum \$1 million).

1/We enclose S.......... to open a Gold Monthly Interest Account By Post (Minimum \$5,000 Maximum \$1 million) Please send more details BLOCK CAPITALS

Full Name(s) Mr/Mrs/Miss.____

Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society

CHIEFOFFICE: CHELTENHAM HOUSE CLARENCE STREET CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL50 3 JR. TELEPHONE: (0242) 36161. Branches throughout the UK. See Yellow Pages. Member of the Building Societies Association. Assets exceed £5,000 million.

†Compounded Annual Rate. †Withdrawals subject to normal branch limits.

Father Christmas, the classic high net worth individual, is self-employed and domiciled overseas for tax reasons. But he has a real sense of community giving all the same. Completing the long journey each Christmas Eve is never easy, but

even more so this year, as, unfortunately, money problems keep cropping up and wiping the "ho ho ho" from his bearded lips. So help Santa complete his festive trek as quickly as possible - take a dice, and put yourself in his position . . .

Cheshunt first to defy ombudsman's orders

exclusively used in the

Move forward three spaces

to claim tax relief on any UK earnings you may have

course of your work.



Sitting pretty now: Peter and Julia Morgan and dangliter Kiri after changing their mortgage

A building society has defied Mr Stephen Edell, the Building Society Ombudsman, for the first time, after he ordered it 10 waive a mortgage redemption charge.

The Cheshunt Building of a penalty as such, as long as this is pointed out at the stage when the borrower can go elsewhere for a mortgage.

He pointed out in his first annual report this year that he did not the charging of a penalty as such, as long as this is pointed out at the stage when the borrower can go elsewhere for a mortgage.

He pointed out in his first annual report this year that he did not be a penalty as such, as long as this is pointed out at the stage when the borrower can go elsewhere for a mortgage.

redemption charge.

The Cheshunt Building Society denied that charging the penalty was unfair treatment and refused to comply.

But the tale had a happy ending for Mr Peter Morgan and his wife Julia – for despite the ruling they redeemed their and his wife Julia — for despite the ruling they redeemed their £22,000 ·mortgage with the Cheshunt by using their right to repay it without penalty when mortgage rates rise.

The problems began in 1987 when Mr Morgan, a local government officer, realized that he could find a cheaper mortgage elsewhere and de-

mortgage elsewhere, and de-cided he wanted to move the mortgage on his home in Saffron Walden, Essex.

But Rule 19 of the society says that when a mortgage is repaid within the first five years, a payment has to be made of three months' interest. In Mr and Mrs Morgan's case this amounted to £350.

"I did not want to pay the forfeit," said Mr Morgan. "It had not been pointed out to me that I would have to do this. It was buried in the rules. It was very obscure."

There were 58 rules at the time the Morgans signed their deeds. Mr Alan Recce, the chief executive of the Chesh-

unt Building Society, said:
"The society tells solicitors to

point out any significant de-tails in the rules and we would

I took out the mortgage. I feel I was definitely misled." Mr Edell was initially minded to order the Cheshunt to lower the interest rate as an alternative to waiving the penalty. But he was persuaded by the building society that this was not fair and eventually ordered the society to release Mr Morgan from his mortgage

without a penalty.

This it refused to do on the grounds that the power to kevy a redemption charge within the first five years was set out in the rules, and Mr and Mrs Morgan were bound by the

The society also maintains that it would be "unfair to other borrowers" if an exception was made in this case. The policy is well established and well defined and

has been applied consis-tently," said Mr Reece.

when the penalty is not levied by the Cheshunt, including the death of the borrower, cases of hardship and when the mortgage rate is increased. As the dispute between the building society and the Mor-

gans dragged on, the mortgage ington Spa, Lambeth and rate climbed, and on November 2 this year, they redeemed charge three months interest. the mortgage without paying a

penalty.

Mr Edell is not opposed to

annual report this year that he did not consider it was sufficient to refer in general to provisions in the rules to

charge a redemption penalty. Not nne of the larger building societies charges a redemption penalty, but many of the smaller ones continue to do

So while just over half the building societies charge penalties, only 15 per cent of mnrtgages are subject to

redemption charges.

The justification for the charge is that it covers the administration costs of closing the mortgage and compen-sates the building society for ending what was envisaged as

a long-term agreement. Some societies such as the Natinnwide Anglia, York-shire, Leeds Permanent and Northern Rock charge interest until the end of the month, regardless of which day the But there are circumstances mortgage is actually red-

Others, such as the Skipton, charge one month's interest: the Guardian, Regency and Sussex County charge two months' interest, and the Cheshunt, the Chelsea, Leam-

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Heathrow Airport last night held a surprise for Linda Ellis, aged five, below, who met Father Christmas while she was waiting for her flight.



Continued from page 1 minals will be decorated with Christmas trees and tinsel, and airline staff will wear fancy dress or sing carols. Sir Bryan Nicholson, ch Sir Bryan Nicholson, chair-man of the Post Office, announced yesterday that the Royal Mail had successfully cleared the decks of 1.5 billion letters and cards, including 500,000 to Father Christmas at the Royal Mail's specially created address in "Reindeerland". They had also delivered 60 million parcels, bestired left week new a parcels,

eating last year's record. Supermarkets are convinced that they are going to break all records today despite the exodus of so many customers to

shops were yesterday accused of staging "a massive Christ-mas rip-off" and raking in "scandalously high profits" by Mr Barry Sheerman, the Opposition front-bench spokesman on name annurs. He wrote to three Cabinet ministers — the Home Sec-retary, Mr Donglas Hurd, the Trade and Industry Secretary, Lord Young, and the Transport Secretary, Mr Paul Channon, demanding an inquiry into the exploitation of Christmas shoppers.

"In Britain the profit margin is 5 per cent to 7 per cent,"
Mr Sheerman claimed,
"whereas in America and

The John Lewis Parinership reported yesterday that customers had spent a record amount of nearly £21 million at its Waitrose branches in the

week to December 17. Mr Sheerman also accased brewers of over-charging for non-alcoholic drinks. Nonetheless brewers and publicans confirmed that sales of low alcohol and non-alcoholic beers and wines had boomed this Christmas, showing greater growth than any other

Mr Robert Cryer, Labour MP for Bradford South, urged the Government to "bring a little Christmas cheer to the many other countries it is only needy" by introducing cut-1 ner cent." price television licences.



BOXING DAY

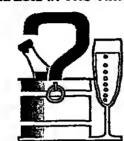
On Monday The Times will be the only quality paper to be published

First Light

 First Light, Peter Ackroyd's latest novel, is set in Dorset, where a remarkable star is being studied, and a strange burial mound excavated. On page 22 today



the author tells the story behind the book. Read First Light In six extracts in The Times next week, starting on Monday.



- Charades: Starting on Boxing Day, a sparkling (but simple) competition to test your knowledge of imaginary characters, with five crates of champagne to be won.
- Bernard Levin: on power, arrogance and corruption at home and abroad.

NEXT WEEK







What do Joan Collins, Frank Carlucci, Derek Jameson and Father Christmas have in common? All come under junior scrutiny in Early Times, a special 12-page issue of the children's newspaper free with The Times on Tuesday. In the same issue, teachers are taken to task by their pupils; and the pantomimes are reviewed by those who really know them . . .

Plus A far, far better thing? A series to mark the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution.

 Hanson's next step: In an exclusive interview, Lord Hanson talks to The Times about his plans.

To ensure your Boxing Day copy of *The Times*, place an order with your newsagent today.

Police link wanted IRA men to Inglis Barracks explosion

By Stewart Tendler, Andrew Morgan and Ruth Gledhill

bomb factory have linked the fugitives with the bombing of Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, in which a serviceman died.

The bomb was left inside a barrack block at the main living quarters of the Forces' early in the morning last August. Nine soldiers were injured in the blast, the first the past two months. successful IRA attack since the 1984 Brighton bombing.

Yesterday, as the search for the two men continued, detectives remained convinced Mill Hill may have been last went to the flat on

Prevention of Terrorism Act

detectives hunting two IRA still being questioned at men who fled a south London Paddington Green police station, west London, for clues to the fugitives' whereabouts.

there was speculation that the bombers were part of a Continental unit who had slipped in and then out of Britain. Yard postal services and exploded sources now believe the two missing men could be part of In the past mouth, Miss that unit and have returned in Kellaris has been to the flat missing men could be part of

been linked to the barracks second man there. Fein, were held under the and six and nine-day timers.

Scotland Yard anti-terrorist yesterday and were last night

After the barracks bombing,

one-bedroom flat is Miss Christine Kellaris, aged 27.
She first rented it from
Wandsworth Council about
five years ago and bought it two years ago.

She let it to one of the alleged IRA activists about four weeks ago, and was later suprised to find a second man

several times to pick up her The fugitives could have mail, and regularly saw the bombing by finds in the Her sister, Mrs Lesley Clapham flat; the bomb at Bakas, aged 30, said Christine

they had not escaped from the mainland.

A man and a woman,

A man and a woman,

This is the flat, thought to the shooting, when both men were again in the flat. "They thought to be linked to Sinn 100 lb of Semtex explosives were very pleasant again and with no hint of malice," Mrs The owner of the small, Bakas said.

Growing doubts over 747 bombing theory

WEATHER

Continued from page 1

warning Mr Portillo confirmed that the department received the warning from the US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) on December 9

BBC radio, A that such we all the time.

He declare taken very se thority (FAA) on December 9. It had asked the security services to weigh up the information. We were salisfied, having assessed it, that the enhanced security for American planes was satisfactory and appropriate."

For many years, there has been extra security measures for American airlines in Britain.

Asked why the public was not told he said: "This was occasions. That did not hap confidential and classified American intelligence information and we felt we did not have a right to divulge it."
He said that, if all the warnings that were received were fed to the public without lose their impact. Earlier on FAA.

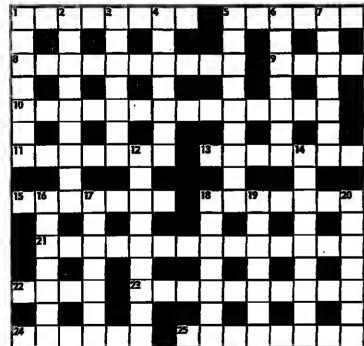
that such warnings occurred

He declared: "Each one is taken very seriously and each one has to be evaluated and you have to decide what, if any, extra measures have to be taken as a result. This is happening all the time."

Mr Channon faced an angry: attack from Mr Prescott yesterday for not disclosing in the Commons on Thursday that a warning had been received.

The Labour spokesman said: "You do trust ministers to tell everything on these pen." But the department said that, before the statement was made, it had been felt inappropriate to single out this warning, one of many constantly made to the Government, before it had had the opportuany examination, they would nity to communicate with the

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,861



ACROSS

- 1 Untrustworthy, like a mule? (8). 8 Pull right reserves back before
- 9 Ramble passed through a narrow passage 4).

 10 Escape with instrument in black box (6,8).
- 11 Discards clubs, say, to win South's confidence (7). 13 Islander's king takes queen, per-
- 15 Become attached, as Bill is to island (7). 18 Eat together in ship, maybe, in a port (7).
- 21 For example, two to one it's 2 logical issue (8,6).
- 22 Martyr's shroud, say (4). 23 For instance, Meredith, Orwell and French novelist (6.4). 24 Poet that initially might be alter-
- native to Graves? (6). 25 Leader of Greek enemy 'ad de-stroyed Trojan youth (8).
- Solution to Puzzle No 17,855

GRAFIS CHAPATIII
A A D A I E N
MILLIBAR REARED
L S D R R I
GRAFFITI SRRATA

1 Having teachers give boy the rod

- 2 in Italian city, being non-U so essential (9). 3 Trespasser in Cook's vessel (7).
- 4 Gives back profit (7). 5 Priest needing help, we hear, in gun attack (9). 6 Endlessly display bovine type —
- Irish bull, perhaps? (7). turned up outside (7).

 12 1 considered for some time, though tempted (9).
- 14 Rope leading pairs together (9). 16 No ill-feeling with this priest everyone follows (4-3).
- 17 Reptile's a particularly fine specimen (7). 18 Complaint as girl's seen embracing boy (7).
- 19 Confuse and badly upset faally? Not at all (7). 20 Shorten a part of violin composition (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 17,860

SANSERIE T U T N 1 E ANIMATOR STAG P C R C A QQURSE FLAME NEVF QVRATED SHOT A D SHOPPER
A D DRAWSR
L N N J R L V
SRIGHTONROCK A
L A B O G EATS
REGICIDE E R E
D O M RINDSIDE

will ease across north and north-east Scotland, with squally showers, some of snow or bail. Central and south-east Scotland will be bright or sunny. Elsewhere will be mild and cloudy with outbreaks of light rain or drizzle. Extreme south and south-west will be mostly dry. Outlook: Mild, wind and rain spreading from west. AROUND BRITAIN

Strong to gale-force winds

ABROAD - 12 54 cloudy - 12 54 cloudy - 11 52 cloudy - 11 52 cloudy - 11 52 cloudy Nice Cato Pate Pate Peting Perit Progue Reyidell Rindes Rio de J Riyada Rome Seizburj S Prisco .01 0.1 12 - .17 10 - .22 8 0.2 - 12 3.0 .11 S 54 cloudy 50 rain 48 rain 54 cloudy 54 cloudy 48 rain . .02 10 0.4 .13 3.5 .11 3.5 .9 11 ...32 11 Streeting Sydney Transpire Takety Torontor Tuke Valencia Vance Valencia Vance Westrion Westrion Vance Valencia Vance Van - .15 1.0 .22 0.2 .07 - ,24 - 29 - ,11 i.8 .02 * Denotes figures not available These are Thursday's figures

A prize of a distinctive Sheaffer "Targa" Regency Stripe fountain pen with a solid 14-carat gold inlaid nib will be given for the first five carrier solutions are all and a solutions are solutions are solutions. correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The win-ners and solution will be published

Answers on page 13

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the anguage jungle. Which of the ossible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

b. A sugared bun c. Monetary unit of Thailand

PETRASTIC

e. To boox

SINGULT

a. A sob b. Guilt for sin

c. Select, picked out

a. Basque skittles b. A fortified driak c. Stupid in-laws

a. A resinous glas b. Experimental

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: N I A Pink, "Wake-Rabin". Prospect Road, Widcombe Hill, Bath; T C Lane, Knowlewood Knap, Wool Wareham, Dorset; E Thomas, Osbone Street, Wolveton, Milton Keynes; M Walters, Oxford Street, Barry, S Glamorgan; C E Blythe, "Lekshum", Kenwick Road, Louth, Lines.

Name Address Jumbo Crossword and concise, page 22

HIGH TIDES 233 1.51 8.08 11.50 7.53 11.58 6.18 1.02 2.58 2.26 3.22 AM 2.12 7.41 11.23 7.25 11.83 5.50 11.48 8.22 2.56 11.48 12.11 8.46 5.18 11.53 11.18 4.06 Avorances
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Lost Cuarter December 21

Sun sets: 3.56 pm Last Quarter December 3

LIGHTING-UP TIME TODAY Laudon 4.26 pm to 7.36 am Bristol 4.35 pm to 7.45 am Edinburgh 4.12 pm to 8.14 am Manchester 4.25 pm to 7.55 am Penzance 4.54 pm to 7.50 am

TOMORROW
London 4.26 pm to 7.36 am
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Bristol 4.36 pm to 7.45 am
Relaborgh 4.12 pm to 8.14 am
Remchester 4.24 pm to 7.55 am
Peszance 4.54 pm to 7.51 am

LONDON

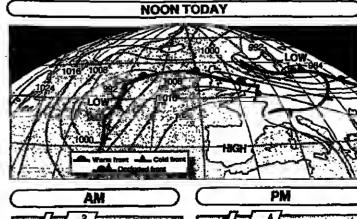
YESTERDAY supplied by Met Office

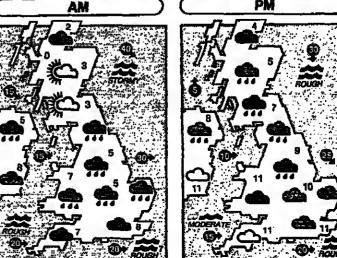
HIGHEST & LOWEST

MANCHESTER

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